

Pruitt met on March 29, 2017, with executives from Water-Gen "as a request of Sheldon Adelson," according to copies of his calendar that were released after activists filed a lawsuit. Adelson's relationship with the company is unclear.

In the meeting was Maxim Pasik, Water-Gen's executive chairman. According to Pasik's biography, he is also involved in a company that invests in oil and gas projects and a company that designs "green vertical walls." Also attending was Yehuda Kaploun, president of Water-Gen's U.S. division.

It is not clear whether the executives specifically pitched an R&D agreement at that meeting.

Pasik also had a followup meeting with Pruitt and other officials May 10, according to the administrator's calendar.

EPA did not respond immediately to questions Tuesday night about the meeting or Adelson's involvement. Late-night emails to an Adelson representative and Water-Gen executives were not immediately returned either.

EPA's Office of Research and Development put out the public call for partners to help study atmospheric water generation in September, months after the Pruitt meeting.

The agency signed the research agreement with Water-Gen in January. It was not immediately clear why the agreement was not announced until two months later.

The agreement involves the company lending one of its generators to EPA for at least three months for study at the agency's Cincinnati laboratory. EPA did not pay the company and is not being paid, the agency said.

Known as a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, or CRADA, the agreement lets EPA work with the company on testing the generators and studying potential uses in the U.S. Such agreements are not unusual. EPA said it entered into eight similar agreements during fiscal year 2017, and dozens of less complex agreements to share data or materials.

Water-Gen has worked in recent years to boost its U.S. profile.

Alan Dershowitz, the prominent American attorney and a member of Water-Gen's board of directors, pitched the technology at last year's gathering of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, just two days before Pruitt's meeting.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the company a nod at this year's AIPAC conference earlier this month, saying the technology "improves on Moses," who is described in two sections of the Torah as producing water from a rock.

The specific device EPA is studying, the GEN-350, is a medium-scale generator that can create 600 liters of clean water, or about 160 gallons, each day. It weighs more than 1,700 pounds and can be transported by truck or SUV to remote locations, according to the company's website.

Water-Gen also makes a smaller version for homes or offices that generates up to eight gallons a day, as well as a large-scale version it pitches for large buildings that can produce over 1,300 gallons daily. All run on electricity.

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[Back](#)

Energy regulator rejects Perry's plan to boost coal [Back](#)

By Darius Dixon and Eric Wolff | 01/08/2018 05:58 PM EDT

Federal energy regulators on Monday rejected Energy Secretary Rick Perry's proposal to prop up struggling coal and nuclear power plants, a major defeat for the former Texas governor and the coal companies that have urged the Trump administration to help them.

Perry had ordered the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to act by this week to guarantee financial payments to the plants that could be facing retirement because of the rise of natural gas and renewable energy, a strategy that many critics said would undermine the power markets the regulator has spent decades building.

But in a 5-0 decision announced Monday, FERC formally axed Perry's proposal and instead ordered the nation's regional grid operators to submit information about their ability to judge "naturally occurring and man-made threats" to their systems within 60 days. That order essentially puts off any action until at least April, if the agency decides to implement any measures at all.

In a statement, Perry said he was pleased his proposal had sparked a national debate, and said he looked forward to the agency's probe into "the marketplace distortions that are putting the long-term resiliency of our electric grid at risk."

But FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur criticized Perry's effort for failing to show the grid was in danger, and merely trying to "freeze yesterday's resources in place indefinitely."

"I believe the Commission should continue to focus its efforts not on slowing the transition from the past but on easing the transition to the future," she wrote.

And green groups were relieved, with the Sierra Club's Mary Anne Hitt, head of its "Beyond Coal" campaign, praising FERC's decision and saying the whole process was "a comically orchestrated ploy by unscrupulous coal and nuclear executives to handicap their competition because they were foolish enough to think that American electricity customers wanted their dirty, expensive power plants when cheaper, cleaner alternatives are available."

Analysts have said the rule proposed by the Energy Department would have its biggest impact on the PJM power grid that stretches across 13 states from the Midwest to the East Coast, and would be a boon to Murray Energy, a coal mining firm run by Bob Murray, a major Trump backer who has met frequently with Perry and Trump.

DOE's proposal was its latest bid to help "baseload" power sources like coal and nuclear that provide around-the-clock electricity but can't adapt quickly to changes in demand like natural gas power plants can. While coal-fired power plants provided half the nation's electricity a decade ago, the surge in natural gas output has made that fuel the industry's favorite for new power plants. Weak demand for power has also put coal at a disadvantage, since the older, less-efficient

plants are not as economic as newer natural gas turbines, and renewables like wind power have gotten cheaper.

FirstEnergy Corp, an Ohio-based utility whose struggling power plant subsidiary is a major customer of Murray's, said it was disappointed in FERC's rejection.

"Without timely action, more of these facilities will close prematurely, jeopardizing the ability to provide clean, reliable and affordable power to customers while harming economies across the region," it said in a statement.

Perry has embraced the controversial effort wholeheartedly and top DOE officials pressed their case at public events, conferences with skeptical state utility regulators, and to pro-market conservative groups.

At a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing in October, Perry dismissed concerns that his plan would cost consumers several billion dollars a year. "What's the cost of freedom? What does it cost to build a system to keep America free?" he said, contending that the power grid's vulnerabilities posed a threat to national security.

In a September letter to FERC calling for it to act quickly, Perry wrote that "the resiliency of the electric grid is threatened by the premature retirements of these fuel-secure traditional baseload resources." And he said FERC's power markets had failed to take into account the need for keeping coal and nuclear power plants on the system.

But in its Tuesday order, FERC said the feedback it received from grid operators on the Perry proposal "do not point to any past or planned generator retirements that may be a threat to grid resilience."

The effort to support coal power plants has been a central theme for Perry in his first year at DOE. Less than two months after being sworn in, he directed agency staff to conduct a review of federal policies affecting the electric grid, and to probe what "regulatory burdens ... are responsible for forcing the premature retirement of baseload power plants."

However, that study, released in August and following pleas from Murray for DOE to use the agency's emergency power to order the firm's coal customers to keep running, delivered a conclusion energy experts had long known: Cheap, abundant natural gas was the primary driver of changes in the U.S. electricity sector.

That DOE report had urged FERC to expedite efforts figure out policies to address state programs that favored technologies such as nuclear power, and to update how power producers are paid in regional electricity markets.

But about a month later, Perry submitted his "grid resiliency pricing rule," a proposal that, if enacted, would cover the costs of power plants that keep a 90-day fuel supply on-site and directed FERC to take "final action" by Dec. 11. McIntyre, who was sworn in in early December, requested an extension through Jan. 10.

Monday's order says in addition to the information requested from the power grid operators, it will accept comments from other parties for 30 days after the grid operators' filing deadline.

Democratic Commissioners Cheryl LaFleur and Rich Glick, as well as Republican Commissioner Neil Chatterjee, each issued separate statements explaining their decision to

support the order. Kevin McIntyre, a Republican appointed by President Donald Trump, chairs FERC.

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[Back](#)

As Congress stalls, Trump quietly overhauls flood program [Back](#)

By Zachary Warmbrodt | 03/27/2018 02:35 PM EDT

The Trump administration is bypassing Congress and quietly overhauling a key government program designed to protect millions of homeowners from the financial perils of flooding.

Seven months after Hurricane Harvey submerged Houston, the spotlight on the National Flood Insurance Program has dimmed and attempts by lawmakers to update it have stalled. But FEMA is using administrative powers to try to expand flood insurance coverage ahead of future storms and offset the government's tab for destructive disasters to come.

The moves, which rely on assistance from the private insurance industry and the broader financial markets, would address shortcomings that Harvey and other historic hurricanes laid bare. Many homeowners don't buy insurance despite flood risks. Many who do purchase coverage overwhelm the program with claims after the most catastrophic storms, drowning it in billions of dollars of Treasury debt as FEMA tries to fulfill obligations to flood victims.

The changes underway inside the program echo proposals that lawmakers have pitched during the past year but have been unable to enact amid political gridlock over what to do — a growing source of frustration for members of Congress.

"It's broken," said Sen. [John Kennedy](#) (R-La.), one of the lawmakers who has been pushing flood insurance legislation without success. "We need to fix it."

With Congress calling for change but sidelined by politics, FEMA officials have stepped into the breach, rolling out reforms before the program's 50th birthday this year.

"On the one side, more people need insurance coverage," Roy Wright, who directs the flood program for FEMA, told POLITICO. "Secondly, there should be more private capital backing that risk."

One change the agency will make this year: loosening restrictions on insurance companies that want to offer their own flood coverage. FEMA is lifting a "non-compete" policy that limited the ability of insurers to sell private policies if they also sold flood insurance on behalf of the government as part of its "Write Your Own" program.

Insurers have been lobbying Congress to implement the change, and they applauded FEMA for taking the initiative. Robert Gordon of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America said it "would allow companies willing to take on flood insurance risk the ability to do so."

"It's a mutual gain," Wright said of the change that would potentially expose his program to further competition from the private sector. "We need more people selling these products."

In addition, FEMA is taking a step that could relieve some pressure on the cost of government-backed flood insurance by trimming compensation the agency pays the private insurers who sell policies for the NFIP. Like the removal of the non-compete clause, it's an idea lawmakers have been debating over the last year.

At the same time, FEMA is making moves to shield the government from overwhelming payouts triggered by catastrophic hurricanes like Harvey, which forced the program to borrow money from the Treasury to cover funds owed to consumers. The flood insurance program has paid out about \$10 billion in the wake of last year's storms — losses only rivaled by 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

Well ahead of last year's deadly hurricane season, the program for the first time acquired reinsurance — insurance for insurers — that would provide \$1 billion in coverage after a storm the scale of Harvey. The resulting payout was money the NFIP didn't have to borrow from Treasury.

FEMA expanded its reinsurance purchase this year, and is actively weighing whether to move even deeper into financial markets by tapping other kinds of securities — a decision that's expected to be made in the coming weeks.

The moves are just a few of the potential reforms the administration has started to implement.

Wright, who took the helm of the program three years ago, spent the early part of his tenure focused on addressing a major controversy after Hurricane Sandy that flood insurance policyholders weren't being paid fairly. He touts improvements to the program's quality controls, the way it deploys people on the ground after disasters and how it educates policyholders.

"We had been putting in place administratively a whole series of changes in the post-Sandy world, where clearly there were things in the program that needed to be fixed," he said. "If it's covered, we're going to pay it, and I think that's what people are seeing."

Attention returned to the NFIP last year when a series of powerful hurricanes coincided with the program's Sept. 30 expiration, a deadline set by Congress when it passed reform legislation in 2012. With big questions hanging over the NFIP's future, the administration sent more than a dozen proposals to lawmakers, who had already begun working on bills for the next long-term renewal.

The White House's wish list included removing the restrictions on private flood insurance, broadening FEMA's ability to enter into additional kinds of arrangements with commercial insurers, addressing homes with repetitive flood losses and tackling affordability concerns.

Congress last year took care of one of the biggest asks — canceling \$16 billion of the program's debt, which by late September had hit the limit of the NFIP's \$30 billion borrowing authority. It provided breathing room for the flood program, which pays hundreds of millions of dollars per year in interest to the Treasury.

But beyond forgiving the debt, Congress has been unwilling to enact additional changes. The program has coasted since last year on a series of short-term extensions tied to government funding bills.

That dynamic shifted last week when Congress decoupled the program's expiration from that of government funding, setting up a game of chicken between the House and the Senate that will have to be resolved by the next reauthorization deadline of July 31. The bill, [H.R. 1625 \(115\)](#), also increased funding for flood hazard mapping and pre-disaster mitigation.

The House in November passed a five-year NFIP reauthorization bill, but the Senate has failed to act. The House legislation, [H.R. 2874 \(115\)](#), would remove restrictions on private flood insurance and require the program to cede risk to the financial markets, among other changes.

"I am hopeful that this puts pressure on the Senate to actually work on a bill so that we can restore solvency to the NFIP," said Rep. [Sean Duffy](#) (R-Wis.), who negotiated the House legislation. "The Trump administration has taken cues from the House-passed bill and is implementing provisions on their own as a result of inaction in the Senate. This should send a clear signal to the Senate to act with a sense of urgency for the sake of saving the NFIP."

Negotiations in the Senate are unresolved. The legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Banking Committee, which has been consumed with moving a landmark bank deregulation bill, [S. 2155 \(115\)](#).

"There should be a way," Senate Banking Chairman [Mike Crapo](#) (R-Idaho) said in early March. "I still hope we can get there."

Separating the flood insurance program's expiration date from government funding alarmed coastal lawmakers — the new deadline falls during hurricane season — but also disappointed some insurance industry lobbyists who are so unhappy with some of the reforms Congress has come up with that they would rather see a straight reauthorization bill without big changes.

For example, insurers who sell flood policies on behalf of the government have resisted proposals that would cut their compensation beyond what FEMA is proposing to do administratively. The firms are also concerned about additional measures proposed by coastal representatives who want to strengthen the hand of consumers in disputes over flood insurance coverage.

"The provisions being kicked around by the Louisiana and New Jersey delegations are so bad that it's not worth having any more negotiations," said one lobbyist who declined to be identified. "Better to kick the can than kick these around."

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Somewhat



Neutral



Not really



Not at all

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Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Message

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: 3/21/2018 11:53:20 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Seeking comment on EPA confirmation to House Dems re: private security travel

Thanks Jahan

Please do update me on what we discussed on the phone. I am interested in those comparative figures.

All best,
Valerie

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:49 PM
To: Volcovici, Valerie (Reuters)
Cc: Press
Subject: Re: Seeking comment on EPA confirmation to House Dems re: private security travel

"Security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government."

On Mar 21, 2018, at 7:02 PM, "valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com" <valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com> wrote:

Hello,

Reuters is seeking comment on the House Democrats' confirmation that Administrator Pruitt travelled in first class with his private security detail.

Beyond confirming the letter, can you add any comment to whether the travel was appropriate?

Many thanks,
Valerie

Valerie Volcovici
Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898 8373
Mobile/Signal: +1

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

1333 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

From: Alba, Monica (NBCUniversal) [Monica.Alba@nbcuni.com]
Sent: 4/7/2018 3:54:07 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Confirming quotes in AP report

Hi there,

Hope you're well. Confirming your quotes in this AP report and wondering if there's any additional statement or info you can send me on this? Thanks much

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday that Pruitt has faced an “unprecedented” amount of death threats against him and his family.

“Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats,” Wilcox said.

<https://apnews.com/b6e7dedc97fe4c8198f3efdc27e28cdf>

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt’s concern with his safety came at a steep cost to taxpayers as his swollen security detail blew through overtime budgets and at times diverted officers away from investigating environmental crimes.

Altogether, the agency spent millions of dollars for a 20-member full-time detail that is more than three times the size of his predecessor’s part-time security contingent.

New details in Pruitt’s expansive spending for security and travel emerged from agency sources and documents reviewed by The Associated Press. They come as the embattled EPA leader fends off allegations of profligate spending and ethical missteps that have imperiled his job.

Shortly after arriving in Washington, Pruitt demoted the career staff member heading his security detail and replaced him with EPA Senior Special Agent Pasquale “Nino” Perrotta, a former Secret Service agent who operates a private security company.

An EPA official with direct knowledge of Pruitt’s security spending says Perrotta oversaw a rapid expansion of the EPA chief’s security detail to accommodate guarding him day and night, even on family vacations and when Pruitt was home in Oklahoma. The EPA official spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Perrotta also signed off on new procedures that let Pruitt fly first-class on commercial airliners, with the security chief typically sitting next to him with other security staff farther back in the plane. Pruitt’s premium status gave him and his security chief access to VIP airport lounges.

The EPA official said there are legitimate concerns about Pruitt’s safety, given public opposition to his rollbacks of anti-pollution measures.

But Pruitt’s ambitious domestic and international travel led to rapidly escalating costs, with the security detail racking up so much overtime that many hit annual salary caps of about \$160,000. The

demands of providing 24-hour coverage even meant taking some investigators away from field work, such as when Pruitt traveled to California for a family vacation.

The EPA official said total security costs approached \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday that Pruitt has faced an “unprecedented” amount of death threats against him and his family.

“Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats,” Wilcox said.

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA’s press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.

Pruitt has said his use of first-class airfare was initiated following unpleasant interactions with other travelers. In one incident, someone yelled a profanity as he walked through the airport.

The EPA administrator has come under intense scrutiny for ethics issues and outsized spending. Among the concerns: massive raises for two of closest aides and his rental of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a lobbyist who represents fossil fuel clients.

At least three congressional Republicans and a chorus of Democrats have called for Pruitt’s ouster. But President Donald Trump is so far standing by him.

A review of Pruitt’s ethical conduct by White House officials is underway, adding to probes by congressional oversight committees and EPA’s inspector general.

Pruitt, 49, was closely aligned with the oil and gas industry as Oklahoma’s state attorney general before being tapped by Trump. Trump has praised Pruitt’s relentless efforts to scrap, delay or rewrite Obama-era environmental regulations. He also has championed budget cuts and staff reductions at the agency so deep that even Republican budget hawks in Congress refused to implement them.

EPA’s press office has refused to disclose the cost of Pruitt’s security or the size of his protective detail, saying doing so could imperil his personal safety.

But other sources within EPA and documents released through public information requests help provide a window into the ballooning costs.

In his first three months in office, before pricey overseas trips to Italy and Morocco, the price tag for Pruitt’s security detail hit more than \$832,000, according to EPA documents released through a public information request.

Nearly three dozen EPA security and law enforcement agents were assigned to Pruitt, according to a summary of six weeks of weekly schedules obtained by Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

Those schedules show multiple EPA security agents accompanied Pruitt on a family vacation to California that featured a day at Disneyland and a New Year’s Day football game where his home state Oklahoma Sooners were playing in the Rose Bowl. Multiple agents also accompanied Pruitt to a baseball game at the University of Kentucky and at his house outside Tulsa, during which no official EPA events were scheduled.

On weekend trips home for Sooners football games, when taxpayers weren't paying for his ticket, the EPA official said Pruitt flew coach. He sometimes used a companion pass obtained with frequent flyer miles accumulated by Ken Wagner, a former law partner whom Pruitt hired as a senior adviser at EPA at a salary of more than \$172,000. Taxpayers still covered the airfare for the administrator's security detail.

Pruitt's predecessor, Gina McCarthy, had a security detail that numbered about a half dozen, less than a third the size of Pruitt's. She flew coach and was not accompanied by security during her off hours, like on weekend trips home to Boston.

Pruitt was accompanied by nine aides and a security detail during a trip to Italy in June that cost more than \$120,000. He visited the U.S. Embassy in Rome and took a private tour of the Vatican before briefly attending a meeting of G-7 environmental ministers in Bologna.

Private Italian security guards hired by Perrotta helped arrange an expansive motorcade for Pruitt and his entourage, according to the EPA official with direct knowledge of the trip. The source described the Italian additions as personal friends of Perrotta, who joined Pruitt and his EPA staff for an hours-long dinner at an upscale restaurant.

Perrotta's biography, on the website of his company, Sequoia Security Group, says that during his earlier stint with the Secret Service he worked with the Guardia di Finanza, the Italian finance police.

The EPA spent nearly \$9,000 last year on increased counter-surveillance precautions for Pruitt, including hiring a private contractor to sweep his office for hidden listening devices and installing sophisticated biometric locks for the doors. The payment for the bug sweep went to a vice president at Perrotta's security company.

The EPA official who spoke to AP said Perrotta also arranged the installation of a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth for Pruitt's office.

At least five EPA officials were placed on leave, reassigned or demoted after pushing back against spending requests such as a \$100,000-a-month private jet membership, a bulletproof vehicle and \$70,000 for furniture such as a bulletproof desk for the armed security officer always stationed inside the administrator's office suite.

Those purchases were not approved. But Pruitt got an ornate refurbished desk comparable in grandeur to the one in the Oval Office.

Among the officials who faced consequences for resisting such spending was EPA Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Kevin Chmielewski, a former Trump campaign staffer who was placed on unpaid administrative leave this year.

The prior head of Pruitt's security detail, Eric Weese, was demoted last year after he refused Pruitt's demand to use the lights and sirens on his government-owned SUV to get him through Washington traffic to the airport and dinner reservations.

Message

From: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: 3/6/2018 6:30:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:30 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

What is the best number to reach you at

From: Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 1:28 PM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

Yes, and we just need a little clarity on this, since it's clear a couple of vendors were considered for the locks, but we are not sure that's the case with the sweep. Thanks.

From: Dennis, Brady
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:27 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

Thanks, will update. I know Juliet was trying to reach Liz, so feel free to give her a call. But I am also around.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:25 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

Here is an updated on-the-record statement: **"Once again Senate EPW Democrats went to the press, before sending their letter to EPA. Security sweeps are common practice in government and former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson had her office swept. We looked at a couple of different vendors and our career administrative officials approved locks that are used for the Inspector General and other offices within EPA."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

I will follow this up with a phone call.

From: Eilperin, Juliet [<mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:35 PM

To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>

Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

Hey Liz, thanks for this, and I just called you. So if we're reading this right, the biometric locks were installed by Locktech, and no Ed Steinmetz, whereas the sweep was done by Steinmetz? While our story doesn't say that Steinmetz did the locks, we will clarify that if you just confirm we are interpreting this email correctly. We understand if the AP story was in error.

And would it be accurate to say that one of the reasons the biometric locks were installed was because EPA staffers were going in and out of the Administrator's office unannounced, including when he was not there?

Also, is it possible to get the date of the security sweep?

Thanks, and feel free to call me any time if you'd like.

Juliet

From: Bowman, Liz [<mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 12:05 PM

To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>; Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>

Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

The security office within EPA approved the expenditure of funds for this contractor; it was paid on a card because it was below the threshold.

Locktech is not Ed Steinmetz, and the security office within EPA looked at competing bids with the amount over \$5,000. Ultimately, it was the same materials and likely same contractor installing the locks, as the one used in the Office of the Inspector General.

Washington Post

ED_002125C_00013723-00002

Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official

By Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis, 3/6/18, 10:45 AM

Two senior Senate Democrats asked Environment Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday to provide details about how a business associate of the head of his security detail got a security contract with the agency.

Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta — who heads Pruitt's security detail and also serves as a principal of Rockville-based Sequoia Security Group — suggested last year to EPA officials that they hire a fellow member of the management team at Sequoia, Edwin Steinmetz, according to an administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal agency decisions. The roughly \$3,000 contract to sweep Pruitt's office for concealed listening devices was conducted by Edwin Steinmetz Associates, the official said.

The Associated Press reported last year that the EPA had hired Steinmetz to conduct the bug sweep, though it did not report that Perrotta had suggested agency officials seek Steinmetz's services, or that they are in business together. Pruitt also had biometric locks installed in his office, for two separate payments of \$3,390 and \$2,495, according to the AP. Those expenditures weren't disclosed on the government's contracting website because the threshold for reporting stands at \$3,500.

Steinmetz is listed as Sequoia's vice president of technical surveillance measures. And while it was his own firm, based in New Jersey, that received the bug-sweeping contract, Sens. Thomas R. Carper (Del.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.) — both senior Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee — are seeking documentation to prove that Perrotta obeyed federal conflict-of-interest rules.

"These facts raise questions about Mr. Perrotta's compliance with EPA regulations and concerns that he may have used his position at the agency to influence the award of EPA contracts to a person or company in which he has a financial interest," they wrote in Tuesday's letter.

In a statement Tuesday morning, EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said, "We will respond to Senator Carper and Senator Whitehouse through the proper channel." Steinmetz could not be reached for comment Tuesday morning.

Under federal statute, the senators noted, a government official cannot participate “in a ... contract, claim ... or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his ... general partner, [or] organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee ... has a financial interest.”

The letter continued, “EPA officials can only issue a waiver from this provision, in advance, if they determine that the employee’s financial interest in the contract is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Government may expect from such employee.”

Perrotta, a former Bronx criminal investigator and Secret Service agent who held several overseas posts, has protected EPA leaders dating to the George W. Bush administration. Despite that full-time job, he has pursued numerous side ventures over the years.

He was head of a contracting business, P&P Construction, from 2004 through late 2012, according to LinkedIn and various public records. He wrote that he began the business “as a hobby” and “accomplished numerous home improvement projects throughout the D.C. area.”

Since early 2013, he has managed Sequoia, a “boutique security and investigative firm.” On Sequoia’s website, Perrotta is listed as the firm’s principal leader. In the past, he also has referred to himself as the company’s “founder and CEO.”

Steinmetz, meanwhile, is listed as part of the firm’s “management team” and a vice president of technical surveillance measures. His online biography says he has “over 30 years of combined law enforcement, public and private sector experience in ‘specialized’ security services,” and that he is an expert in conducting surveillance sweeps.

Steinmetz’s own firm, Edwin Steinmetz Associates, has received at least one other government contract, according to public records — a \$25,000 award last year from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for “miscellaneous alarm, signal and security detection systems.”

The firm is registered at what appears to be Steinmetz’s home address in New Jersey. The company’s website reads, “Bug sweeping is our business.”

On his LinkedIn page, Steinmetz lists himself as having worked as a “privacy officer” for Sequoia since 2013, adding that he has provided security sweeps “for a number of high profile corporate clients throughout the United States.”

Pruitt's security expenses during his short tenure have repeatedly drawn scrutiny. Shortly after taking office in February 2017, he switched to a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week protective detail, drawn in part from the agency's environmental crime investigation staff, after his staff concluded that he faced a higher level of threat than did his predecessors. After a public critic confronted the administrator while traveling last spring, according to a top EPA official, it was Perrotta who recommended that Pruitt fly in either first or business class to avoid such situations.

Henry Barnett, who directs the EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training, said in an interview with The Washington Post last month that Perrotta's recommendation was prompted by an incident in which a person approached Pruitt "with threatening language" that was "vulgar."

Speaking in New Hampshire last month, Pruitt emphasized that members of his security detail decide his travel arrangements. "I'm not involved in any of those decisions. Those are all made by the detail, the security assessment in addition to the chief of staff," he said.

Perrotta has traveled personally with Pruitt on multiple occasions, the senators noted, including to Kentucky, Oklahoma, Colorado and North Dakota last summer. In his capacity as a principal at Sequoia, Perrotta has advertised his expertise in "threat analysis and mitigation" and "VIP travel."

Separately, Pruitt spent nearly \$25,000 in agency funds last year to build a secure, soundproof communications booth in his office. The EPA inspector general's office confirmed in December that it would investigate the matter, though Pruitt told lawmakers that month that he installed the booth to have confidential conversations with key administration officials.

"It's necessary for me to be able to do my job," Pruitt said during a hearing on Capitol Hill.

In their letter, Carper and Whitehouse asked for details about the agency approval Perrotta received for his outside employment, as well as how he has weighed in on Pruitt's security measures.

"Please provide any written assessments authored in whole or in part, or reviewed by, Mr. Perrotta, of security threats to you," they wrote, "including but not limited to the determination that security considerations required you to fly first-class, that you needed to have your office swept for electronic listening devices, that you needed to install biometric locks, that you needed a secure communications booth, that you require round-the-clock security protection, and any other non-disclosed security measure or project you have decided to undertake."

Message

From: Miranda Green [mgreen@thehill.com]
Sent: 3/7/2018 10:05:47 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: comment on Okalahoma story

Hi Jahan,
Looking for a statement from you on this story!

Thanks,

<https://newsok.com/scott-pruitt-traveled-first-class-a-few-times-when-he-was-oklahoma-attorney-general/article/5586000>

--

Miranda Green
Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill
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Message

From: White House Press Office [whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 3/6/2018 6:05:25 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, 3/5/2018, #63

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

3:04 P.M. EST

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. As you all saw, the President and First Lady enjoyed their time today with Prime Minister and Mrs. Netanyahu. The bond between the United States and Israel is the strongest it has ever been.

The President's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital made good on the promises of numerous past Presidents. And he appreciates Prime Minister Netanyahu saying today that his decisive action will be remembered by the Israeli people throughout the ages.

Our two nations stand united against terrorism and those who fund it, as well as in our shared goal to build a more peaceful and prosperous Middle East.

Before taking your questions today, I'd like to introduce you to a few special guests we have here with us in the briefing room. Retired Marine Corps Sergeant John Peck and Staff Sergeant Liam Dwyer both served combat deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The President met both of them recently at Walter Reed.

Sergeant Peck suffered a traumatic brain injury in Iraq during his first tour of duty. Then, after two years of therapy, he re-enlisted and deployed to Afghanistan. While there, he stepped on an IED and lost both arms and legs. He spent two years at Walter Reed, and in 2016 received a double arm transplant. He is now doing physical and occupational therapy at Walter Reed, and doing incredibly well.

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Staff Sergeant Dwyer endured a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq, but he re-upped and later went to Afghanistan. While there, he stepped on an IED, resulting in the loss of his left leg and severe injuries to his right arm, leg, and torso. Doctors were able to save his limbs and reattach them through over 50 surgeries. And after previously spending four years at Walter Reed, he is back there to receive additional surgeries in the coming months.

Thank you both for your service and for inspiring us all with your bravery, sense of duty, and resilience. These men represent the very best of America, and remind us why it's so important to make sure our great veterans get the care they deserve.

Transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs has been one of the President's top priorities. We've announced plans for the VA to shift veterans' electronic medical records to the same system used by the Defense Department. This will end a decades-old rift in sharing information between the two agencies.

The President signed an executive order to ensure veterans can receive care outside of the VA system, when needed. He signed into law a bill empowering senior VA officials to fire failing employees who are not taking care of our vets. As a result, accountability is being restored.

He signed into law a bill streamlining the lengthy process that veterans undergo when appealing disability benefits claims. Hundreds of thousands of vets are awaiting decisions regarding their appeals. The President is pushing the VA to use the new, streamlined process to work through the backlog as quickly as possible.

He also signed a bill authorizing \$2.1 billion in additional funds for the Veterans Choice Program. This program helps vets facing long wait times or long distances from nearby VA facilities by empowering them to receive quality care outside of the VA system. The White House has also set up a VA Hotline, staffed by veterans, to help vets needing assistance and quick answers.

I could continue with the list, but this should leave no doubt that President Trump is serious about taking care of our veterans. They sacrifice so much for us, and we must never let them down. Thank you, Sergeants Peck and Dwyer, for being with us here today.

And I met them while we were at Walter Reed, and they promised that they would be on their best behavior but we'll see how that goes. And if it gets really tough, I'm very happy to refer questions to both of them because I'm pretty sure that as tough as they are, they could certainly handle anything that is thrown at them. But hopefully we don't have to do that.

Major, go ahead.

Q Sarah, under the heading of accountability, have you or the President read in full the IG report on Secretary Shulkin? Are you satisfied with his response? And is he in any jeopardy? And does he retain the President's confidence?

MS. SANDERS: I know that that is being reviewed. Secretary Shulkin has repaid, I know, several thousand dollars towards some of the travel costs of the trip that was in question. And we're continuing to focus on a lot of the great work that's taking place at the VA while that's still under review.

Secretary Shulkin has done a great job, as I laid out several of the things that have happened. And one of the reasons these guys are here is to continue pushing to make sure that we improve the VA system and to continue to put extra encouragement on the VA Secretary to make sure we're doing everything we can for veterans.

Q From what you learned in that report, would you say the Secretary's conduct was consistent with the standards the President has established for the VA?

MS. SANDERS: Again, as that continues to be under review, I can't go any further than what I have already.

Q All right. On tariffs, the Speaker of the House said he's very concerned, urging the President "not advance with this plan" -- that's a direct quote -- and that a trade war could, "jeopardize the gains achieved through the tax cuts and tax reform." What's your reaction to Speaker Ryan?

MS. SANDERS: Look, we have a great relationship with Speaker Ryan. We're going to continue to have one. But that doesn't mean we have to agree on everything.

The President has been committed and talked about this for many years, particularly on the campaign trail. And the people came out loud and clear and supported this President, therefore supporting the policies that he campaigned on.

We want to solve the problem. We want -- the President believes in free, fair, and reciprocal trade, and hopes other countries will join him in pursuing that goal. The President wants to make sure that we're doing everything we can to protect American workers and to protect industries like the steel and aluminum industry that are so important to our country.

Q And nothing about this would jeopardize economic growth, as the Speaker fears?

MS. SANDERS: The President feels strongly that we have to protect some of the industries that are the backbone of this country, and we have to protect American workers. We can't ignore these industries. It's a

matter of both economic and national security and something that he feels very strongly about, and we're going to continue to move forward.

John.

Q So it looks like the deadline on DACA is going to come and go today with no resolution. Clearly, any action that the White House would take has been suspended by the courts. But what's the next step and what's your message to Congress that seems so badly to want to fix DACA but hasn't done anything to do it?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I think it's absolutely terrible that Congress has failed to act. The President gave Congress six months, and he also gave them a plan. He gave them four pillars that he wanted to see in legislation -- legislation and principles that the majority of members of Congress have supported in the past. They claim to want to fix DACA. The President laid out a pathway and an exact way to do that. They failed to address it. But we're still hopeful that Congress will actually do their jobs, show up and get something done, and fix this problem, not kick it down the road and not continue to ignore it.

Q When it eventually gets to the Supreme Court, I assume you're expecting a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court. So then what happens?

MS. SANDERS: Look, we fully expect to win on an appeal, and if we needed to go to the Supreme Court, we feel very confident there as well.

But again, this is -- it's Congress's job to pass laws. And the President has laid out what he wants to see in them. And the sad part is, is that both Republicans and Democrats don't disagree on most of the merits of this legislation. The fact that they can't actually come together and get something done is pathetic, and now they're using the courts as an excuse. They need to come to work and actually do what they were elected to do.

Q If the courts reinstates his authority to rescind the DACA protections, and Congress doesn't act, is the President willing to back off on rescinding DACA?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead of what the President may or may not do on that front. We're still asking Congress to actually do their jobs.

Jordan.

Q Thanks, Sarah. The President had some tough words for U.S. allies today on trade, saying they were ripping off the U.S. just as much as our enemies. So has the President ruled out exceptions under these steel and aluminum tariffs for certain U.S. allies, or are those still on the table?

MS. SANDERS: We're still finalizing what the final deal will look like. And I'm not going to get ahead of the President's announcement.

John.

Q Do you have timing?

MS. SANDERS: We'll keep you posted.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. It seems like many Republicans, including the House Speaker, were caught off guard by the President's decision as it relates to tariffs. Were they caught off guard? Were they given a heads up in any way?

MS. SANDERS: I think they should have been well aware this isn't, again, something that the President has been shy about. He's been talking about this for quite some time. So if they were caught off guard, they just simply haven't been listening to what he's been saying and what he's been talking about, and how he has promised to make good trade deals and make free, fair, and reciprocal trade in this country.

Q And is the President open to discussing this particular issue that he's at odds with the House Speaker, trying to find some sort of compromise, perhaps, on this?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead of anything beyond where we are right now. But again, the President is going to do what he feels is necessary to protect American workers.

Ayesha.

Q Thank you. You had mentioned last week that the White House was going to come out with a proposal on guns or to let Congress know what it wanted to be done on guns. Where is that proposal?

MS. SANDERS: We're continuing to have those conversations. The President has laid out some specific things and some specific places that he does support. For instance, again, reiterating the support for the Cornyn bill, as well as the STOP Gun [School] Violence Act. Those are two pieces of legislation that the President supports. We're going to continue some of the discussions that have been ongoing, continue to engage with Congress, as we lay out some more details of what we'd like to see, including --

Q And regarding --

MS. SANDERS: -- sorry, just -- including the meeting that will take place on Thursday with some of the leaders within the video game industry.

Q Regarding moving the embassy to Jerusalem, the President said that it was going to cost \$250,000 to build the U.S. embassy there. What was he referring to? Or what did he mean by that?

MS. SANDERS: I'll have to get more specifics. I think the point he's making is that he's going to do it faster and far less expensive than a billion-dollar project, as was projected.

Jonathan.

Q On the tariffs, the President tweeted that trade wars are good, easy to win. Can you explain what he meant by that?

MS. SANDERS: Look, the President, I think, is very confident that if that's where we ended up, we certainly would win. But that's not the goal. The goal is to get free, fair, and reciprocal trade, and hope that other countries will join in.

Q And Paul Ryan is practically pleading with the President to reverse course on this. Are you saying that there's no way he's going to reverse course on this?

MS. SANDERS: The President said today that he wasn't backing down. But in terms of the specifics of what it looks like, I'm not going to get into that right now because those things are being finalized.

Q So it's possible that some of the details may change? Because he said 25 --

MS. SANDERS: Well, we haven't actually, like, fully rolled out all of the details. And so, therefore, it would be hard for me to say that they're going to change since we haven't put them all out.

Q But the topline, he said 25 percent tariff on steel imports; 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports that would apply to everybody. Are those details going to change?

MS. SANDERS: Again, I'm not going to go any further than the comments he's already made, and any other details we'll let you know when we're ready.

Ashley.

Q We've already talked about Secretary Shulkin, but Secretary Pruitt is under scrutiny for his first-class travel on taxpayer dollars. And Secretary Carson is under scrutiny for the \$31,000 dining set he bought. Can you first --

MS. SANDERS: I believe that was actually cancelled, just to be clear.

Q After media scrutiny. But I was wondering if you could first -- specifically for both of those matters -- explain the White House view, and then, taking all three of those secretaries' behavior, broadly explain how you believe this fits the pattern of draining the swamp.

MS. SANDERS: Look, as the President has said, he takes spending taxpayer dollars very seriously. All of those individual secretaries' travel are under review, and I can't speak to them further while that is ongoing.

Q An on draining the swamp?

MS. SANDERS: I'm sorry?

Q Can you explain how this behavior is consistent with the President's directive to drain the swamp?

MS. SANDERS: Look, that's why they're under review. And once that is completed, we'll have more information. But I can't get into anything further right now.

Q Earlier in the Oval Office, the President said that he thought the Palestinians were wanting to come back to the table to talk about Mideast peace. Can you say what he's basing that on?

MS. SANDERS: I can only tell you that we're as committed today as we've ever been to the peace process. And we're going to continue having those conversations and pushing to get something done.

Q But is he seeing something that the rest of us aren't seeing, in terms of --

MS. SANDERS: He sees a lot of things that everybody else isn't seeing, but I can't get in any further than that right now.

Kristen.

Q Sarah, I want to ask you about some breaking news that we're just getting. Sam Nunberg, the President's former campaign aide, is refusing a subpoena by a grand jury. And he just said on MSNBC, moments ago, "I think he," meaning the President, "may have done something during the election, but I don't know that for sure." Your reaction?

MS. SANDERS: Well, I definitely think he doesn't know that for sure, because he's incorrect. As we've said many times before, there was no collusion with the Trump campaign. Anything further on what his actions are -- he hasn't worked at the White House, so I certainly can't speak to him or the lack of knowledge that he clearly has.

Q What's your reaction of him not cooperating with the grand jury, refusing this subpoena? Would you encourage all of these witnesses to come forward and tell their story?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I'm not going to weigh into somebody that doesn't work at the White House. I can tell you, from our perspective, we are fully cooperating with the Office of the Special Counsel. We're going to continue to do so. And I'll reiterate once again, the reason we are so comfortable doing so is because there was absolutely no collusion within the Trump campaign and any foreign government.

Q Let me just ask you one on trade. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was asked if there was any possibility that the President could change his mind on these new tariffs. He said, "Whatever his final decision is, is what will happen. What he has said, he has said. If he says something different, it'll be something different." If this was a carefully thought-out policy, Sarah, why the mixed messaging?

MS. SANDERS: I don't think there is mixed messaging. This is a decision that --

Q His own Commerce Secretary (inaudible) to know what the final decision is going to be.

MS. SANDERS: But this is a decision that will ultimately be made by the President. And so there are a lot of legal details that are being finalized, and the Secretary is not going to get ahead of that, and certainly not going to get ahead of the President. At the end of the day, this is going to be something that the President makes a decision on, and he's going to do so fully with the idea of doing what he can to protect American workers and to promote economic and national security.

April.

Q Two topics. What, if any, of a shift was there today in Jared Kushner's position at it relates to the meetings with Netanyahu today?

MS. SANDERS: None at all that I'm aware of.

Q So as it relates to the security clearance, he's still -- I mean, he doesn't have the security clearance that he had --

MS. SANDERS: As we've said many times before, I'm not going to comment on any individual security clearance. But --

Q Is he still allowed to carry on duties today in that meeting, as --

MS. SANDERS: His role wasn't impacted today.

Q Okay. And second question: Father Pfleger, from St. Sabina Church in Chicago, has written President Trump at least twice in reference to Chicago and guns. And you say that you're going to continue conversations about guns. Would he be someone that you would bring to the table as he is someone who is on the ground, with gangs, and dealing with

the issue of guns -- something that's a focal point of this President, and Chicago as well?

MS. SANDERS: I would have to look into that. I'm not aware of the individual or the letters, and so I would have to check into that before I could make a comment on it.

Toluse.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Does the President believe we should take guns from people who are dangerous, before due process, as he said last week?

MS. SANDERS: The President thinks that we need to expedite the process. He wants to make sure that if somebody is potentially harmful to themselves or other people, that we have the ability to expedite that process. Certainly, we still want to have due process, but we want to make sure that it's not tied up for months and months and months, and someone that could potentially be dangerous is allowed to have a gun without us being able to expedite that process. And that's what he'd like to see us do.

Peter.

Q Thank you, Sarah. We reported today that the President's private attorney, Michael Cohen, had trouble reaching him before the end of the campaign to talk about the \$130,000 payment to Stephanie Clifford. Did the President and Michael Cohen talk about this payment at any time during the campaign or thereafter?

MS. SANDERS: Not that I'm aware of. And I'd refer you to Michael on that.

Steven.

Q I want to ask a follow-up about the Mideast peace process. In the Oval Office, the President referred to the difficulty in reaching a deal. It's been more than a year since Prime Minister Netanyahu's first visit here with President Trump. He said, a year ago, that if the administration were to achieve a great peace deal, he'd be doing it very diligently. Why hasn't the administration put forward a proposal yet, a framework, for how he sees peace in the Middle East playing in?

MS. SANDERS: Look, we're going to do that when we think that the time is right, but we're going to continue pushing forward. We're as committed now as we've ever been, and we want to continue in this process. And we'll let you know when we have an announcement on what that plan would look like.

Q But it doesn't seem as though there's been any progress, at least within this administration, toward achieving some kind of proposal. Why would that be?

MS. SANDERS: Look, again, we're not going to get ahead of where we are in this process. The conversations are still ongoing. This wasn't a problem that was created in a short amount of time. I don't think we're going to fix it overnight. But it's something we're certainly very committed to fixing and to being part of. And we're going to continue those conversations and continue pushing for that peace.

John.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Two brief questions. First, The New Yorker is carrying a story in which the former British agent, Christopher Steele, claims that Russian sources within the Kremlin torpedoed the nomination of Governor Romney to be Secretary of State because he's a sworn enemy of the Putin regime. The administration's response to that claim?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of anything regarding that, and don't know that to be factual in any capacity at all.

Blake.

Q The other thing -- my other question.

MS. SANDERS: Oh, sorry. Yep. Two questions.

Q Yeah. When the President announced the tariffs on China, he said that they would be in effect for a very long time. I'm curious, why didn't he simply say, "until China relents on its policy on steel," and give, you know, a set goal for the tariffs that he's proposing?

MS. SANDERS: Look, again, the President's ultimate goal is to get free, fair, and reciprocal trade. And if China wants to come to the table and play ball, and make some significant changes, then I think we'd be open to those conversations. But at this point, we haven't seen an indication of that taking place.

I'll take one last question. Blake.

Q Sarah, thank you. And to end with trade, there was a study released today showing that this would be a -- the President's proposal is a net loss of 146,000 jobs. Has the White House studied how many jobs may be lost or created because of its policies?

MS. SANDERS: Look, this is something the President is committed to doing. And he feels that both our national security are vitally important in this process, and we have to be able to have these industries to protect that. And so that's a big part of the goal.

Q No study?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to say that we're not looking at every facet of this, because we certainly are. It's been a very thoughtful and long process. But that is the focus of the decision that he's making.

Q And lastly, the President's close friend, Carl Icahn -- it's out there that he sold \$31 million worth of stock of a company related to this whole issue just before the President made his announcement. Can you tell us the last time the President has spoken with Mr. Icahn, and whether or not he told Mr. Icahn of what he was planning to do?

MS. SANDERS: No, I'm not aware of any of their -- of a recent conversation between the two of them. So I'd have to verify and get back to you. But I'm not aware of any conversations.

All right. Thanks, guys. I'm going to let -- hold on. I'll let these guys take a break. And if they want to say anything, they're welcome, certainly, to make a quick comment before we leave.

Q Sarah, can you speak to the morale in the White House, Sarah, after Scaramucci said Friday that morale has never been lower?

MR. SANDERS: (Laughs.) I definitely would not agree. I think we're in a great place. Look, we have an incredible story to tell. It's been a historic first year. And we're continuing to focus on the things that President Trump campaigned on. We're excited about what we've done and where we're going, and we're going to continue working hard for the American people.

Thanks. I'm going to let these guys take a break. Thanks, guys.

END

3:24 P.M.

EST

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Message

From: White House Press Office [whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2018 8:56:51 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, 4/9/2018, #74

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:47 P.M. EDT

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. As you all saw, the President led a Cabinet meeting this morning, with the opioid crisis being a major part of the agenda.

In recent weeks, we have continued combatting this issue on all fronts. And by making the opioid crisis the primary focus of today's Cabinet meeting, the President is once again showing that it's one of his top priorities.

There's a long road ahead and much work to be done. But we will not rest until our streets are safe, our families are secure, and the victims of this terrible epidemic are able to live a life free of addiction.

As the President noted yesterday, and again today during the Cabinet meeting, the chemical weapons attack by the Syrian regime against innocent civilians is horrifying. The images, especially of suffering children, have shocked the conscience of the entire civilized world.

Sadly, these actions are consistent with Assad's established pattern of chemical weapons use. His forces are already responsible for previous chemical weapons attacks and other actions targeting civilians.

The President has noted that Russia and Iran also bear responsibility for these acts, since they would not be possible without their material support. It is also now clear that Russia has betrayed its obligations to guarantee the end of the Syrian regime's chemical weapons program.

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The President and his national security team are consulting closely with allies and partners to determine the appropriate response. As President Trump clearly stated, there will be a price to pay.

We call on all members of the international community to share any information related to this attack and to hold the perpetrators and their sponsors accountable.

And we call upon the Syrian regime and Russia to open the area to international medical assistance and international monitoring.

And with that, I'll take your questions.

John.

Q The President was pretty definitive today in saying that this was an attack with banned chemical weapons. Yet, there hasn't been any concrete proof of that. Russia insists that there is no evidence of chemical weapons. What makes the President so sure that he is willing to make such a declarative statement?

MS. SANDERS: The President is confident. He's been briefed by his national security team and being kept up to date constantly and regularly on the intelligence around that. And I can't get any further beyond that at this point.

Q Do we have any proof at this point that it was, in fact, a chemical weapons attack?

MS. SANDERS: Once again, I can't get anything beyond the comments that we've already made, but we're very confident in those comments.

Q Sarah, just a couple weeks ago, the President was talking about wanting to leave Syria very quickly. Now you're saying that there is a price that has to be paid. Does the President believe that there are some things that are so atrocious -- which is the phrase he used this morning -- that the United States is, in fact, the world's policeman and it demands response and demands the presence of the United States government in the region?

MS. SANDERS: Look, the President wants to bring our troops home after we complete the mission to eradicate ISIS in Syria. At the same time, he wants to make sure Assad is deterred from chemical weapons attacks on innocent civilians. Signaling we want to remove our troops in no way degrades our ability to hold parties responsible.

Mike.

Q Has the President been briefed that his comments about wanting to leave Syria could have played a part -- emboldened Assad and played a part in these attacks?

MS. SANDERS: The only individuals that played a part don't reside in this country. And I think we've made very clear who we think is responsible for these attacks. And to try to conflate that and make this -- on any part, blame this President is absolutely ridiculous.

Q Well, the President has criticized others for signaling military plans. It seems to be what he's doing here. Does he regret those comments that he made last week?

MS. SANDERS: The President has been clear that he wants to make sure that we have the defeat of ISIS. We've also been clear in our actions, as you have seen after previous chemical attacks, what this President has done. And I think we've been very upfront on that.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sarah. First, the news out of Syria this morning about apparent strikes carried out overnight. Does the United States believe that Israel was behind those strikes, as a number of reports claimed? And was the United States given a heads up by the Israeli government?

MS. SANDERS: I can only speak on behalf of this government. For questions on that, I would refer you outside.

I can tell you, at this time, the United States is not conducting airstrikes in Syria, but I can't go beyond that at this point in time.

Q So from the White House perspective, did the White House get a heads up from any foreign government about conducting strikes in Syria?

MS. SANDERS: Again, I can't go any further than commenting on behalf of our government. And I can tell you that, currently, at this time, the United States is not conducting airstrikes in Syria.

Q And back on the deterrence for a second. For a moment, you said the President wants to ensure that there's -- the Assad regime can't conduct attacks like this in the future. Last year, when the President launched those cruise missiles, he had said that there was a deterrent, obviously.

What has changed between, sort of, months ago, when the Assad regime wasn't using chemical weapons, and then this strike now? It seemed to be -- the timing coming so soon after the President making that determination on wanting to pull U.S. troops out of Syria that there was -- you can see why we're drawing the timing there. So why, in the President's estimation, did his deterrence -- did his attempt to establish a deterrent effect on the Assad regime now failing?

MS. SANDERS: Once again, the President has made clear that, with the defeat of ISIS, he wanted to be able to bring our troops home. But at the same time, he wants to make sure that Assad is deterred from chemical

weapons attacks on innocent civilians, and we think you can have separation.

Jon.

Q But, Sarah, didn't the President, by saying that he wants to get out of Syria, essentially give a green light to Assad to do this, as John McCain had suggested? That the United States was leaving -- was, kind of, pulling up and leaving it to the Syrians --

MS. SANDERS: Look, we're still there. And I think that it is outrageous to say that the President of the United States greenlit something as atrocious as the actions that have taken place over the last several days. The President, once again, made very clear how he feels about those types of actions when this took place roughly a year ago, and we're going to continue looking at all of our options on the table currently.

Q Well, John McCain said that that emboldened Assad; that this was sending a message to Assad. Is that still his position? Does he still want to leave Syria?

MS. SANDERS: I think the message that we sent to Assad was very clear, both in the President's words over the weekend and in our actions that we've taken in the past.

Roberta.

Q Has the President's attitude toward Vladimir Putin changed because of what's happened?

MS. SANDERS: The President has always been tough on Russia, as he said last week, as I echoed again when asked about it. This administration and this President have been tougher on Russia than previous administrations. I think you can see that both through the actions that we've taken and in the comments over the last several days.

Q But he singled out Vladimir Putin in the tweet yesterday. Does he feel that he can still, sort of, find some common ground and work with him on various things?

MS. SANDERS: The President still feels that if we can have a good relationship with Russia at some point, that that's a good thing for the world. But at the same time, this President is going to be tough on Russia until we see some changes in their behavior just as we've done every day over the last year and as we've outline multiple times before, both from the President and as I've done from this podium on many occasions.

John.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Two questions on the foreign policy front. Given the situation in Syria, and your statement today, could the President be in the process of forming an alliance with President Macron in France and Prime Minister May in Britain, not unlike that envisioned by the previous administration with France and Britain, when the first reports of chemical weapons came out?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, we have great relationship with both countries and are continuing conversations with both the UK as well as France, and hope to work with all of our allies and partners in a response.

Q And the --

MS. SANDERS: Sorry, second question.

Q -- other thing is, Prime Minister Orbán, an admirer of the President who has said many kind things about him, won a landslide reelection. Will the President call him? And are there any plans to extend an invitation for a state visit or a working visit to Prime Minister Orbán?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of a scheduled call at this time, but if there is one, we'll keep you posted and likely have a readout to follow.

Jon Decker.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. Today is the first day on the job for John Bolton as the National Security Advisor. Perhaps you can bring him out here one time and he can take our questions.

Q Here, here.

MS. SANDERS: I'll be happy to tag him in at some point.

Q Please do. (Laughter.) I wanted to ask you about some comments that he made about Syria back in 2013 on "Fox and Friends." He said, "I think if I were a member of Congress, I would vote against an authorization to use force [in Syria]." He continued, "I don't think it is in America's interest. I don't think we should, in effect, take sides in the Syrian conflict." Is that a point of view that Ambassador Bolton is bringing to the table now as National Security Advisor?

MS. SANDERS: The point of view that matters most here at the White House, as you well know, is the President's. And as Ambassador Bolton himself has said, he is certainly here to serve as an advisor, but ultimately the decisions being made are the President's. And the comments that he's made previously are personal and he's here to carry out the President's agenda.

Josh.

Q Scott Pruitt, the EPA Administrator, often flew first -class, had a 50-dollar-a-night rental on Capitol Hill, and tripled the size of his security detail. Can you explain what the President meant when he said, "Rent was about market rate, travel expenses OK," security spending somewhat more but it was okay. Why did he say that?

MS. SANDERS: He was referencing a report done by the EPA, which we are continuing to review. But in that, it cites that the apartment was at market value and goes into other details, and that was what the President was reflecting.

Q Fifty-dollar-a-night on Capitol Hill, with a lobbyist, that was of market value, according to the EPA?

MS. SANDERS: Yes -- according to the Office of Government Ethics.

Q And with travel spending okay, is the President okay with Cabinet Secretaries taking first-class travel and tripling the size of their security detail? Is that okay?

MS. SANDERS: Again, we are reviewing the specifics of each of those components. I know there was a much larger number of security issues surrounding the EPA Administrator than in the past. But for specific questions beyond that, I'd refer you back to the EPA.

Q Were those security issues or were those included in police reports? Because there's been a reporting that across the country no one found the death threats or police reports that jeopardized his life or safety. What are you talking about when you talk about threats?

MS. SANDERS: I can't comment about police reports, but I do know that there have been a number of questions raised. And again, we're continuing to review that. Until that's complete, I'd refer you back to the EPA beyond that.

April.

Q Sarah, two questions on Syria. With all that's happened with Russia, with the sanctions last week and now these strong words associating Russia with the Syrian attack, is there an expectation or feeling that relations -- diplomatic relations with Russia -- with this administration, with our country with Russia -- are eroding?

MS. SANDERS: We've been very tough on Russia for quite some time. I think the only people maybe that didn't understand that or see that were members of the press who continually questioned that. Now, I guess, people are concerned that we're being tough on Russia. I guess I'm confused on which way you want to have it. The President would like to have a good relationship, but that's going to be determined by the actions that Russia takes, and we're going to continue pushing forward.

Q And second question. The items on the table, beyond strikes, is there a thought or on-the-table regime change with Assad? And also, where does diplomacy play in this, even with the strikes and all of this that you're saying is on the table?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead of any potential options that the President may or may not take, but I can tell you that we're reviewing a wide range and a number of different options.

Dave.

Q Thanks, Sarah. At the Cabinet meeting this morning, the President was talking about the potential impact of Chinese tariffs on American farmers, and he said the farmers are patriots for being willing to take a hit. And then he said, "We'll make it up to them." What did he mean?

MS. SANDERS: The President has worked with his team to determine how best to respond to China's attack on American farmers, and he has asked the Department of Agriculture to protect our farmers, and will present a plan on the specifics of that shortly.

Q Would he consider extra crop insurance subsidies that are often put in the farm bill for market fluctuations?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead of potential options, but the President has asked the Department of Agriculture to come back with some specifics that we'll announce to you guys shortly.

Hallie.

Q Thanks, Sarah. I've got two for you. First, on Syria. You talked about the idea of a possible military option being a deterrent. Last year, we heard something very similar from the President, who called that chemical attack last year an "affront to humanity." He said it "cannot be tolerated." Is the White House worried that Assad is now making a mockery of President Trump's threats?

MS. SANDERS: Not at all. What our concern is about is the fact that the Assad regime has taken an outrageous action against innocent civilians. Our focus is on responding to that, and that's what we're looking at.

Q And then I wanted to follow up on something from last week, just because we didn't get a chance to, and specifically your comments on citing the LA Times article when asked, I think by Jon here, about the President's rape remarks at that event last week that didn't actually back up the President's claims.

You actually, last fall, admonished reporters to make sure that we hold ourselves to a high standard of accuracy. Does the President also need to be held to that same standard of accuracy?

MS. SANDERS: Absolutely. And as I said that day, it has been well documented that a number of those individuals -- going back even to 2014, where there were multiple articles and studies put out that said 80 percent of the women that go through that process and try to enter the country are raped through that process. Something, certainly, that I think should be concerning to all of us, and certainly something that the President has voiced concern about.

Q And what about the voter fraud claim that the President made last week as well, also not backed up by evidence?

MS. SANDERS: I'm sorry, can you be specific?

Q Yeah. The President talked about those claims of voter fraud again. It's something he's repeatedly brought up. It's just getting the idea of when words matter, particularly in moments of a lot of international pressure, like this moment right now, what his standard of accuracy is when he's speaking to the American public.

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, the President still strongly feels that there was a large amount of voter fraud, and attempted to do a thorough review of it. But a lot of the states didn't want to cooperate and participate. We certainly know that there were a large number of incidences reported, but we can't be sure exactly how much because we weren't able to conduct the full review that the President wanted because a number of states did not want to cooperate and refused to participate.

Tamara.

Q Two questions regarding Scott Pruitt. How long is the review going to take that the White House is conducting?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to lay out an arbitrary timeline, but it's something that we're looking into and continuing to take under consideration.

Q Will it be quick or years?

MS. SANDERS: I mean, obviously, we want to get through this process as quickly as we can, but I'm not going to just make up a timeframe here today.

Q Okay. And did Chief of Staff John Kelly recommend that Pruitt be fired?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get into any private conversations.

Blake, welcome back.

Q Thank you.

MS. SANDERS: Congratulations.

Q Thank you. Thank you. I appreciate it. I want to ask you about Mark Zuckerberg -- headed to the Hill to testify. This administration has often talked about deregulation and the deregulatory effort that the President and this administration has undergone. But there's a question of whether or not Facebook should be regulated. Does the White House have a stance on whether or not Facebook should be regulated? And if so, what is that position?

MS. SANDERS: I don't have a specific policy announcement on that front, but I think we're all looking forward to that testimony today.

Q What does the President make of Mark Zuckerberg? Does he have an opinion of him? Larry Kudlow was fairly critical of him, both on Fox News Sunday, yesterday, and when I asked him about Zuckerberg this morning. Does the President have any sort of opinion on Mark Zuckerberg?

MS. SANDERS: You know, I haven't asked him directly. I'd have to check and get back to you.

I'll take one last question. Jim.

Q Is there anything that the Syrians can do at this point to prevent military action from being taken?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead of what actions we may or may not take, so I can't really answer that question, but we'll keep you posted when we have something on that front.

Q And if I could follow up, just because, you know, you've been saying this over the last couple of weeks, that nobody has been tougher on Russia and Vladimir Putin than this President. Isn't there some hyperbole in that, when you say that? I mean, obviously, Ronald Reagan's "Tear down this wall"; John Kennedy put up a blockade around Cuba; Carter boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. Obviously, there have been Presidents over the course of the last several decades who have been tougher on this President. Also given the fact that this President, up until just recently wasn't really willing to criticize Vladimir Putin by name. We all saw that over the weekend, and took that as a new development.

MS. SANDERS: Yeah, you cite, like, one example for each of those individuals. Let me list off just a few of the actions that the President has taken that previous administrations haven't:

The Treasury Department issued new sanctions on numerous individuals and entities in Russia. The President has continued other sanctions on Russia's malicious cyber activity in response to election hacking. He has expelled 60 Russian operatives from the United States and closed two consulates. The President has issued four statements condemning Russia's poisoning of UK citizens on UK soil. He's authorized the sale of lethal aid to Ukraine. He's authorized military strikes against the Assad regime

in Syria, and has repeatedly called out Russia's actions on that front. We've also exported energy to our allies in Eastern Europe.

Look, I think that you named off one or two things. It is without dispute that this administration and this President has done a number of things to be tough on Russia, and --

Q So if the President says that Vladimir Putin may pay a price for what's happening in Syria right now -- after all, the Russians were supposed to be responsible for helping the Syrians remove the chemical weapons from Syria. When the President says that they may "pay a price," we should take that to the bank?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not going to get ahead, once again, of any actions that the United States may or may not take, but I think the President has been clear about what his intention is.

Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END

3:06 P.M. EDT

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Message

From: Garrett, Major [GarrettM@cbsnews.com]
Sent: 2/28/2018 8:56:07 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Re: Wanted to make sure you had this article as well. See you tonight.

Thank you. Looking forward to it very much.

Major Garrett
Chief WH Correspondent
CBS News
Host of "The Takeout" podcast
Twitter: @MajorCBS, @TakeoutPodcast

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2018, at 3:41 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

EPA Chief's First-Class Travel Prompted by 'Aggressive' Encounters, Official Says

Bloomberg

Jennifer Dlouhy

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-15/epa-chief-s-high-flying-travel-prompted-by-vulgar-encounters>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's much-criticized reliance on first-class flights to whisk him around the world is necessary to ensure his protection amid 'vulgar' encounters and threats from the public, EPA security officials said Thursday.

The EPA chief has regularly sat in first- and business- class seats during his nearly one year leading the agency, generating a storm of controversy. Pruitt's pricey travel, according to travel records first reported by the Washington Post, included a \$1,641.43 trip from Washington, D.C. to New York City last June and a round-trip ticket to Italy last summer that cost \$7,003.52.

"The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe."

The EPA's inspector general is auditing Pruitt's travel, examining the frequency, cost and extent of his trips.

Related: Polluters' Burden From EPA Penalties Is Lightened in Trump Era

Government officials are supposed to incur travel expenses "that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business," according to the code of federal regulations. In

practice, that generally means opting for the least-expensive class of travel, though government agencies can authorize upgrades in the case of long flights lasting more than 14 hours, medical disabilities or "exceptional" security circumstances where sitting in coach would endanger the official's life or government property.

As head of the EPA, Pruitt has been on the front lines of the Trump administration's efforts to roll back a suite of Obama-era regulations governing climate change and pollution, making him a target for environmentalists' anger. Even before he took the helm of the EPA, Pruitt was fighting the agency from the outside, as an Oklahoma attorney general that participated in more than a dozen lawsuits challenging its rules and regulations.

The shift to first-class travel began after May 2017, when EPA officials saw how recognizable Pruitt was to the general public, Barnet said. There were "incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator."

The less-populated, smaller quarters of first-class allow special agents to quickly respond to possible threats, Barnet said.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the agency submits a security-related waiver for each trip Pruitt takes.

The EPA also has been hiring and training a dozen new security agents to provide Pruitt with around-the-clock protection. An internal threat assessment is being conducted every 90 days.

And at times, fellow airplane passengers have taken to Twitter and Facebook to highlight Pruitt is on board their flight, said Nino Perrotta, the EPA special agent in charge who has protected EPA administrators going back to the George W. Bush administration. Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs.

In October, Pruitt told Bloomberg News he was facing what security officials described as "unprecedented" threats. That includes threats to family members, Barnet said.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: 2 Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Daniell, Kelsi [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD867173479344B3BDA202B3004FF830-DANIELL, KE]
Sent: 4/11/2018 11:59:10 AM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Fwd: Morning Energy, presented by the American Petroleum Institute: What's going on inside EPA — EPA union calls for Pruitt ouster — California sues over 'once in, always in'

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "POLITICO Pro Energy" <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Date: April 11, 2018 at 5:42:30 AM EDT
To: <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: Morning Energy, presented by the American Petroleum Institute: What's going on inside EPA — EPA union calls for Pruitt ouster — California sues over 'once in, always in'
Reply-To: "POLITICO subscriptions" <reply-fe851374766c007a7c-630326_HTML-848943095-1376319-0@politicoemail.com>

By Kelsey Tamborrino | 04/11/2018 05:40 AM EDT

With help from Anthony Adragna and Eric Wolff

HEAD TO THE HILL: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry will suit up to return to the Hill today to talk budgets. Zinke will testify at a House Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee hearing on his agency's fiscal 2019 budget. Ranking member Nita Lowey 's opening statement promises to hit on some of Zinke's "antics," like flying a flag when he's present at the department, which "indicate that perhaps your ego has gotten in the way of doing the business of the people," according to some choice excerpts shared with ME. If funding "must be cut so severely," Lowey is expected to say, "then I expect that the same would be true of your travel arrangements and the accoutrements in which you surround yourself." **If you go:** The Interior hearing begins at 10 a.m. in 2007 Rayburn.

After lunch: Perry will visit with the Senate Appropriations Energy-Water Subcommittee at a hearing on DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration's budget request for FY 2019. Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, undersecretary for nuclear security, and Paul Dabbar, undersecretary for science will also testify. **If you go:** That hearing begins at 2:30 p.m. in 138 Dirksen.

INSIDE THE AGENCY — THIS WON'T HELP: The ousting of an EPA employee Tuesday may only stiffen the resolve of some of Administrator Scott Pruitt's strongest critics within the agency, POLITICO's Emily Holden reports. EPA pushed out Mario Caraballo, a career staffer who approved an internal report that undermined the claims that Pruitt required expensive security protection, two former agency employees familiar with the situation said. One career EPA staffer told Emily that Caraballo was a "standout manager," and his departure wouldn't

frighten staff, but instead "embolden us to leak more to get these criminals out." The source added: "They need to know we're not intimidated and we're going to blow the whistle on anything even borderline questionable."

Caraballo was the deputy associate administrator of EPA's Office of Homeland Security, which in February concluded that an earlier assessment failed to identify credible direct threats against Pruitt — the subject of a [letter](#) from Sens. [Sheldon Whitehouse](#) and [Tom Carper](#) that was released Tuesday. One source with direct knowledge of Caraballo's dismissal said the agency claimed he was let go because of a personnel issue from a previous military job nearly a decade ago. But that same source also said senior officials were not happy with the report from Caraballo's office.

"They're in full panic mode right now," the source said. EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Donna Vizian said the agency would not comment on personnel matters, but added in an emailed statement that Tuesday's action "was based on a recommendation by the Office of Administration and Resources Management." Vizian said she was "not aware of any connection between the personnel matter and the document mentioned in media reports." Read the story [here](#).

WELCOME TO WEDNESDAY! I'm your host Kelsey Tamborrino. Growth Energy's Chris Bliley was the quickest to list the five European countries without an airport: Vatican City, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Andorra and Monaco. For today: Name all current senators who have been reelected more than five times. Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to ktamborrino@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter [@kelseytam](#), [@Morning_Energy](#) and [@POLITICOPro](#).

BE PREPARED: Though Senate Energy Chairman [Lisa Murkowski](#) said the final call on Pruitt's future rests with President Donald Trump, she made clear Tuesday she thought Pruitt's string of ethical woes weren't helping him implement his agenda and that he should be ready for a grilling once he finally returns to Capitol Hill. "If I were the administrator, I'd certainly be prepared to answer anything that may come his way," Murkowski, who oversees the EPA spending subcommittee, told reporters.

Ramping up their efforts: Senate Democrats used a portion of their Tuesday caucus lunch to discuss a sense of the Senate resolution, soon to be introduced by Sen. [Tom Udall](#), calling for Pruitt's resignation. "While we expect to have policy differences with a Republican EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt's transgressions have gone far beyond policy disagreements," a "dear colleague" letter that Udall handed several reporters on the subway said.

Democrats worry about review: House Energy and Commerce Democrats meanwhile sent a letter to the EPA Office of the Inspector General on Tuesday, urging it to take over the review of Pruitt's potential ethics violations, following a [letter](#) from the Office of Government Ethics to EPA's top ethics official, Kevin Minoli. Ranking member [Frank Pallone](#) and Reps. [Diana DeGette](#), [Paul Tonko](#) and [Kathy Castor](#) instead requested Tuesday that the IG's office conduct the review, citing concerns with impartiality. Read it [here](#).

**** A message from the American Petroleum Institute:** Safe energy exploration and development in the Outer Continental Shelf could bring significant jobs, investments, and state revenue for public education and infrastructure to coastal states and across the nation, as well as strengthen our national security. Recently released studies highlight the potential economic benefits here: <http://bit.ly/2FPgybN> **

AT THE WHITE HOUSE: Trump's Sunday tweet that Pruitt was "doing a great job!" seemed to be the White House's last word on the embattled administrator's recent storm of ethical controversies. But press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Tuesday the president expects "all members of his Cabinet to be honest and certainly open with the public," which could be problematic for the administrator if it is confirmed that he'd lied during last week's Fox New interview, when he said he had only recently found out about pay raises to top aides.

IG WILL LOOK INTO DRAVIS' ATTENDANCE: EPA's IG will review the work attendance of Samantha Dravis, the associate administrator of EPA's Office of Policy who resigned last week, according to a letter to Carper on Monday. Carper previously wrote in a letter to the IG that Dravis had not worked for much of a period from November through January, though she was known to have accompanied Pruitt and other EPA officials to Morocco in December, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. "While Ms. Dravis has subsequently announced that she is leaving the EPA, the issues you raise would not be answered by her departure," EPA IG Arthur Elkins Jr. wrote. Read more.

EPA UNION CALLS FOR PRUITT'S OUSTER: EPA's largest union, Save the U.S. EPA, has aligned itself with environmentalists' "Boot Pruitt" campaign by calling on Pruitt to resign or be fired. "Not only is morale at the lowest it's ever been, but by reducing the importance of science at the EPA, denying the basic tenets of climate change and advocating for drastic cuts to the EPA's annual budget, Mr. Pruitt is putting everyone at risk, including our children and grandchildren," AFGE National Council of EPA Locals #238 President John O'Grady said in a statement. "Some of the damage he has done will take years, if not decades, to undo."

SPITTING FIRE: Carper, the ranking member of the EPW Committee, told reporters a portion of floor debate on Andrew Wheeler's nomination for EPA deputy administrator would go toward discussing the "mistakes and misdeeds" of Pruitt. "We fought his nomination about as hard as anything I've ever fought against in my life. I don't think he should be the administrator today," he said. "If Gina McCarthy were the EPA administrator, the Republican majority would have dragged her in before us maybe not every day of every week, but maybe every week."

Must watch: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, along with Udall, Carper, Jeff Merkley, Michael Bennet and Ed Markey will hold a news conference today to demand a response from Pruitt on a host of ethical questions. The news conference begins at 11 a.m.

DON'T GO THERE: Sen. Murkowski wouldn't weigh in on whether she thought it would be appropriate for Perry to grant a petition from FirstEnergy Solutions, an Ohio utility company, to use emergency authority under the Federal Power Act to keep power plants running. "I'm not sure," she told reporters, adding though that "we say a lot around here that we don't want to be picking the winners and the losers."

FERC COMMISSIONER THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET AT BOB MURRAY'S FEET — BUT PICKS IT UP: For a hot minute there it seemed like FERC Commissioner Rob Powelson was challenging coal magnate Bob Murray to a du — err, debate. In an interview with the Washington Examiner, Murray knocked FERC, saying it "did not do its job" when it rejected a subsidy for coal and nuclear plants in January. Powelson took issue on Twitter saying, "I challenge Bob Murray to a debate on CNBC or Fox News." But then he deleted the tweet. His office did not respond to a request for more info.

CALIFORNIA SUES OVER 'ONCE IN, ALWAYS IN': California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced a new lawsuit against EPA on Tuesday over the agency's so-called "once in,

always in" policy, which it reversed in January. The policy concerns how major emitters like power plants are classified under the Clean Air Act. "If the 'Once In, Always In' policy is rescinded, children in California and around the country — particularly those who must live near the polluting plant or factory — may grow up in an environment with tons of additional hazardous pollutants in the air they breathe," Becerra said in a [statement](#). The lawsuit was filed in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, along with the the California Air Resources Board.

MORE DEMS CALL FOR NPS PROBE: Democratic senators are calling on the Interior Department's IG to investigate whether references to humans' role in climate change were deleted from a National Park Service report on sea-level rise and storm surges, ABC News [reports](#). In a letter — signed by Sens. [Mazie Hirono](#), [Catherine Cortez Masto](#), [Tammy Duckworth](#), [Bernie Sanders](#) and [Ron Wyden](#) — the Democrats point to a recent Reveal News [report](#) that found NPS officials deleted mentions of climate change from 18 draft versions of a report. House Natural Resources Democrats [reached out](#) on Thursday to Interior's IG to call for a similar investigation.

UP IN SMOKE: EPA's OIG [said Tuesday](#) it would open an audit into the agency's oversight of smokestack emissions testing and reporting, initially focusing on Region 10. The audit aims to determine "the effectiveness" of the agency's oversight "in assuring emission stack tests are conducted in accordance with EPA regulation, policy and guidance," the OIG said.

USE IT OR LOSE IT: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing on [S. 2602 \(115\)](#), the "Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act." The bill would support carbon utilization and direct air capture research, as well as support for collaboration in the construction and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration facilities and carbon dioxide pipelines. It is sponsored by Chairman [John Barrasso](#), Whitehouse, [Shelley Moore Capito](#) and [Heidi Heitkamp](#). **If you go:** The hearing begins at 10:15 a.m. in 406 Dirksen.

FIRST IN THE NATION: North Dakota is now the first state in the nation to have the authority to permit underground carbon sequestration projects under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA said Tuesday. Pro's Annie Snider reports the newly granted authority would allow the state's Class VI Underground Injection Control program to approve wells that are used for long-term storage of carbon dioxide from coal plants and other industrial sources. Read [more](#).

ADS TARGET CRAMER, PEARCE: Nonprofit Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship are launching a print, radio and digital campaign today in North Dakota and New Mexico, calling on Reps. [Kevin Cramer](#) and [Steve Pearce](#) to stop supporting oil and gas development on public lands. The full-page ads will begin today in the Bismarck Tribune, Fargo Forum, Las Cruces Sun News and the Carlsbad Current Argus. See the ads [here](#) and [here](#).

GOING GLOBAL: GTM Research forecasts the annual global energy storage market will be 8.6 GW and 21.6 GWh by 2022, according to a new report out today — a first of its kind for the group. The U.S. is expected to stay at the forefront of the global market through 2022, but China will climb to become the second-largest market in 2019. Read the report summary [here](#).

MAIL CALL! CALLING ON APPROPS: The BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of labor and environmental groups, sent letters to appropriators Tuesday opposing funding cuts to various agencies under the Trump administration. Read the Senate letter [here](#) and the House letter [here](#).

— **Bipartisan Reps. John Garamendi and Bruce Westerman** wrote to Transportation and Infrastructure leadership this week, asking for a clean reauthorization of the National Levee Safety Initiative as part of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2018. Read it [here](#).

FOIA TRACKING: The Alaska Wilderness League, Defenders of Wildlife and The Wilderness Society each filed FOIA requests with the Bureau of Land Management, Interior Department and United States Geological Survey for any "documents related to the development of an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." The FOIAs pertain to any documents reaching back to Nov. 15, 2017. Read the FOIAs [here](#).

VISUALIZE IT: The Natural Resources Defense Council launched a new tool on Tuesday to track the development of wind and solar power, LED light bulbs and electric vehicles. See it [here](#).

QUICK HITS

— EPA assesses threats on Twitter to justify Pruitt's spending, [The New York Times](#).

— U.S. coal mogul Murray wants to run power plants too, [Bloomberg](#).

— Pruitt has met with dozens of campaign donors, [The Huffington Post](#).

— Sources: Sinopec USA turns copper buyer to supply China operations, [Reuters](#).

— Inspector general reports coming soon on Zinke, [CNN](#).

HAPPENING TODAY

9:00 a.m. — World Resources Institute and the National Geographic Society [event](#) on data and decision-making around natural resources, 1600 M Street Northwest

10:00 a.m. — House Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing the fiscal 2019 budget for Interior, 2007 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on "FEMA: Prioritizing a Culture of Preparedness," 342 Dirksen

10:15 a.m. — House Natural Resources Committee [markup](#) of pending legislation, 1324 Longworth

10:30 a.m. — House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the FY 2019 budget for NOAA, H-309

2:00 p.m. — House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee [hearing](#) on "Update on the Restoration of Puerto Rico's Electric Infrastructure," 2123 Rayburn

2:00 p.m. — House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee [hearing](#) on national heritage and memorial bills, 1324 Longworth

2:30 p.m. — Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee [hearing](#) on the Department of Energy and NNSA budget requests for FY 2019, 138 Dirksen

5:00 p.m. — The Atlantic Council conversation with Claudio Descalzi, CEO of Eni, 1030 15th St. NW

6:00 p.m. — The Urban Institute discussion on "When Disaster Strikes: Risk, Mitigation Strategies and Recovery," 2100 M Street NW

6:00 p.m. — The Institute for Policy Studies discussion on "Systemic Change and Environmental Justice in India, the United States and Beyond," 1301 Connecticut Avenue NW

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

**** A message from the American Petroleum Institute:** The oil and natural gas industry supports over 10 million jobs and almost 8 percent of the U.S. GDP. We support common-sense energy policies that promote safe energy development that will advance America's energy and economic future, while strengthening our national security. Recent studies find that opening up the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for U.S. energy exploration and development could bring significant jobs, investments, and state revenue for public education and infrastructure to coastal states and across the nation. Natural gas and oil non-station jobs pay an average salary of \$101,000 with many not requiring college degrees. The Atlantic OCS alone could support 265,000 new jobs, an additional \$20 billion per year in new private investment, and contribute \$22 billion per year to the U.S. economy. Studies on the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and Alaska found similar benefits to opening up the OCS for offshore development. Read the highlights of the economic impact studies: <http://bit.ly/2FPgybN> **

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/04/whats-going-on-inside-epa-165138>

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Exclusive: EPA removes staffer who OK'd report on Pruitt's security Back

By Emily Holden | 04/10/2018 12:45 PM EDT

EPA removed a career staffer Tuesday who approved an internal report that undermined Administrator Scott Pruitt's claims that he needed around-the-clock bodyguards and other expensive security protection, according to two former agency employees familiar with the situation.

Mario Caraballo was the deputy associate administrator of EPA's Office of Homeland Security, which in February concluded that an earlier assessment failed to identify credible direct threats against the administrator that would justify his heavy security spending.

Sens. Tom Carper (D-Del.), the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) wrote to Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) on Tuesday requesting oversight hearings and quoting the report, making public its doubts about the need for the heightened security.

One source with direct knowledge of Caraballo's dismissal said the agency claimed he was let go because of a personnel issue from a previous military job nearly a decade ago that had been resolved then and already been reviewed by EPA several years ago. That source said senior officials also were not happy with the report from Caraballo's office.

"They're trying right now to just keep pressure on the wound," the source said. "They're trying to find out where these leaks are coming from ... They're in full panic mode right now."

EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Donna Vizian said the agency would not comment on personnel matters. But she added that today's action "was based on a recommendation by the Office of Administration and Resources Management. I am not aware of any connection between the personnel matter and the document mentioned in media reports."

A career EPA staffer who has worked with Caraballo described him as a "standout manager," and a "veteran and dedicated public servant and intelligence official to boot."

The source predicted Caraballo's dismissal would stiffen the resolve of Pruitt's critics within the agency.

"This isn't going to frighten staff, this is going to embolden us to leak more to get these criminals out," the employee said Tuesday. "They need to know we're not intimidated and we're going to blow the whistle on anything even borderline questionable."

In their letter to Barrasso, the two Senate Democrats said the records from the EPA, Secret Service and a terrorism task force fail to justify Pruitt's use of the multimillion-dollar security detail.

Instead, according to the internal EPA memo, the "threats" include protesters attempting to disrupt one of Pruitt's closed-door speeches, a letter from a prisoner, and a postcard that included the greeting: "CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!!! We are watching you," Carper and Whitehouse wrote to Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.).

The two Democrats demanded oversight hearings into Pruitt's security spending, citing an internal EPA review, Secret Service threat assessments and a Joint Terrorism Task Force report.

But Barrasso rejected their request, while bashing the two Democrats for releasing "sensitive information."

"I am deeply troubled that members of the committee would publicly release law enforcement sensitive information regarding the safety and security of a cabinet member and his family," Barrasso said in a statement. "This letter selectively quotes non-public documents."

Barrasso added that "any reasonable reading" of those documents supported a conclusion that Pruitt faced a "variety of direct death threats."

To the contrary, Carper and Whitehouse said the Secret Service identified no "reports of behaviors of interest" against Pruitt, and internal EPA reviews dispute "the administrator's claims that the nature of the threats against him justify his expenditures."

Pruitt has drawn widespread scrutiny for demanding a round-the-clock security detail, flying first-class to limit contact with threatening passengers, and having a soundproof booth installed in his office, among other steps — all of which offered far greater protection and privacy than his predecessors received. The Associated Press, citing an unnamed EPA official, said last week Pruitt's "total security costs approached \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses."

EPA has said Pruitt has experienced a sharp increase in threats compared with his immediate predecessor, Obama-era Administrator Gina McCarthy. Among specific incidents, the agency said one person had approached Pruitt in the Atlanta airport while yelling, "Scott Pruitt, you're f--ing up the environment."

In one of the nonpublic documents Carper and Whitehouse cited, the EPA Office of Homeland Security's intelligence team concluded that an earlier threat assessment prepared by Pruitt's security team "**DOES NOT** employ sound analysis or articulate relevant 'threat specific' information appropriate to draw any resource or level of threat conclusions regarding the protection posture for the administrator," according to a section of the Feb. 14 memo reproduced in the senators' letter (emphasis included). The memo concluded that EPA intelligence officials had "not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA administrator," according to the letter.

None of the incidents listed concern air travel, according to the letter.

The senators said the records don't match public statements from EPA and President Donald Trump, who tweeted Saturday that Pruitt's expenses are justified.

One view is "that certain factions within EPA have justified the exorbitant taxpayer spending incurred by the administrator's first-class travel and large entourage of security personnel through unsubstantiated claims about threats to his security, either at the direction of the administrator himself or others in the agency," the senators said.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Tuesday that "Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within [Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance] using information collected from the [Protective Service Detail], EPA's Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General." He pointed to interviews with EPA's inspector general office discussing an increase in threats compared to the previous administrator's tenure.

Alex Guillen contributed to this report.

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EPA IG to review Pruitt aide's attendance [Back](#)

By Alex Guillén | 04/10/2018 04:29 PM EDT

EPA's inspector general will "review" the attendance of Samantha Dravis, the associate administrator running EPA's Office of Policy, according to a letter to Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) on Monday.

Carper alleged last week that Dravis had not worked for much of the period from November through January, though she was known to have accompanied Administrator Scott Pruitt and other EPA officials to Morocco in December.

"While Ms. Dravis has subsequently announced that she is leaving the EPA, the issues you raise would not be answered by her departure," EPA IG Arthur Elkins Jr. wrote. "After analyzing your request, we have decided to conduct the requested review."

Sources familiar with Dravis' situation pushed back on the allegations she was not at work and an EPA spokesman last week called the claims "baseless and absurd."

Emily Holden contributed to this report.

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FirstEnergy Solutions asks DOE for emergency support for plants [Back](#)

By Eric Wolff | 03/29/2018 11:30 AM EDT

Days before a huge bond payment is due, FirstEnergy Solutions is seeking an emergency order from the Department of Energy to keep its power plants operating.

The subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. filed a request with DOE today, asking Energy Secretary Rick Perry to direct the grid operator in its region to increase payments to the company's coal and nuclear power plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The request comes after federal regulators in January rejected Perry's grid resilience proposal that would have more broadly subsidized coal and nuclear plants in the region. FirstEnergy would have been among the lead beneficiaries of that plan.

The company said it thinks DOE's order should apply to all coal and nuclear plants in the PJM Interconnection, though it acknowledged that it could only formally ask for its own facilities to be covered.

FirstEnergy Solutions has been teetering on the edge of bankruptcy for months. Its plea for emergency aid comes two days before the company has to make a bond payment reported to be around \$100 million. Many analysts have expected FES to file for bankruptcy before that payment came due.

DOE spokeswoman Shaylyn Hines said the application "will now go through our standard review process."

To view online [click here](#).

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EPA grants North Dakota permitting authority for CO2 injection wells [Back](#)

By Annie Snider | 04/10/2018 04:12 PM EDT

EPA has named North Dakota the first state to have the authority to permit underground carbon sequestration projects under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA's backing of the state's Class VI Underground Injection Control program enables it to approve wells that are used for long-term storage of carbon dioxide from coal plants and other industrial sources. A number of states have assumed permitting authority for other types of wells, like those holding oil and gas wastewater.

North Dakota is home to a nascent carbon capture and sequestration project at the Milton R. Young power plant called Project Tundra.

"By allowing North Dakota to protect its underground sources of drinking water, we are practicing cooperative federalism and increasing the state's involvement in local environmental protection," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement.

EPA will retain permitting authority for Class VI wells on Indian land within North Dakota, as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

WHAT'S NEXT: North Dakota will begin implementing its own permitting program for Class VI wells. Pruitt said EPA "will work with the state to ensure a smooth transition."

To view online [click here](#).

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Message

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Sent: 4/27/2018 9:36:31 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Fwd: Pruitt's scorched-earth strategy adds to staff's 'despair'

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "POLITICO Pro" <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Date: April 27, 2018 at 5:12:17 PM EDT
To: <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt's scorched-earth strategy adds to staff's 'despair'
Reply-To: "POLITICO subscriptions" <reply-fe87137473600c7a71-1186892_HTML-848943095-1376319-0@politicoemail.com>

Pruitt's scorched-earth strategy adds to staff's 'despair'

By Emily Holden

04/27/2018 05:10 PM EDT

Scott Pruitt may have survived his testimony on Capitol Hill, but he's coming back to a further enraged and demoralized Environmental Protection Agency staff.

Several current and former EPA officials and other people close to the agency said Pruitt did himself no favors with his congressional testimony Thursday, in which he blamed his aides for installing a \$43,000 privacy booth in his office and approving more than \$100,000 in first-class flights that he took last year. Pruitt also denied knowing key details about raises that his top staff received last year. And he declined to defend his former policy chief against Democrats' accusations that she had failed to show up for work for three months, even though she and Pruitt had been photographed attending the same meeting during the period in question.

In conversations with 11 people who know the atmosphere inside EPA, including Republican political appointees, a handful said his refusal to grovel may have pleased President Donald Trump. But others said his strategy was appalling to the current and former staffers who found themselves thrown under the bus.

"I think his credibility is damaged, and whether or not he gets fired by a tweet isn't going to diminish the fact that his credibility has been seriously damaged by all of this," one person close to the administration told POLITICO. "It shows a real lack of leadership that he did not defend, or blame, his staff. These are the people that he's asking for loyalty from. These are the people that are defending him. He's not returning the favor. That's not leadership."

A current EPA official said Friday that employees are veering between "despair" and "embarrassment," and Pruitt's televised performance did not help.

"I will tell you, it did not go unnoticed from people who watched the hearing that he did not take responsibility on the policy pieces" of the testimony, the official said. "It was not lost on us on the stuff we know about that he used very careful language, he was parsing his words, that some might say he did not speak the whole truth."

One former EPA official said even political aides are "sick of Pruitt constantly putting himself first," and "putting himself before the president's agenda."

"He's rarely been interested in selling regulatory reform as improving Americans' lives, and is far more interested in saving his political career," the former official said.

But Trump has shown no signs of abandoning his EPA chief, who has won the strong backing of conservative groups with his efforts to erase Obama-era environmental regulations. So far, that has outweighed the anger of White House staff members and exasperation of key Republican lawmakers at Pruitt's series of controversies over luxe travel, extensive security, a below-market D.C. condo rental from a lobbyist and history of questionable real estate deals in his native Oklahoma.

A senior EPA official said Pruitt's strategy of fighting the allegations was designed to appeal to Trump, who disdains members of his team who appear weak on television.

"They like fighters no matter what," the official said. "No matter what, fight. That's what we've been conditioned to."

The official predicted that the White House's takeaway from the hours of hearings would be that Republican lawmakers stood with Pruitt, while Democrats squandered their opportunity by spending too much time criticizing Pruitt's deregulatory agenda — which Trump supports — rather than hitting him for the ethics issues.

"Any audience would say the White House saw a Republican bench entirely supportive of him," the EPA source said. "On the Democrat side, the White House also saw Democrats who used half their time to criticize policies he's doing that the White House likes. If they wanted to land punches, why do you ask about these policies? That's not going to do it for you."

Pruitt ally Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) took that message from Thursday's hearings, despite saying earlier in the week that he was troubled by some recent allegations about the EPA leader's past dealings in Oklahoma. "After a full day of mudslinging and partisan questioning from the Democratic members of the committees, it is clear that the only fault they could find with Scott Pruitt is that he's successfully ending the EPA's history of overreach and overregulation," Inhofe said in a statement Friday.

Still, the senior EPA official said, Pruitt's relatively good day in Congress could be "washed away" if his inconsistencies about what he knew about the raises generate a steady narrative that he lied to the White House, as at least one CNN pundit alleged.

And until Trump weighs in, the tension around Pruitt at EPA will remain high.

"There needs to be a halt to this because it's exhausting," the same official said.

Pruitt also still faces multiple investigations inside the executive branch and on Capitol Hill. On Friday, for example, the agency was due to deliver a "batch of documents" to the staff of House Oversight Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who is leading one of the probes.

Departed EPA aides who have said Pruitt didn't tolerate internal criticism of his spending and secrecy say current staffers still fear they'll be similarly swept up in the scandals — but won't be able to find jobs if they quit now and gain a reputation for disloyalty.

"They're trying to do the best they can in a toxic environment," one former staffer said. "You cannot express any idea that might be misconstrued as a political attack on Pruitt or any policy issues, so people just do what they're told. They're professional. ... They don't want to get caught in an undertow."

Another former EPA official has been getting phone calls from staffers who are frustrated by the controversies but keeping their heads down.

"Everyone in the building wants to come out and say something ... but as soon as they say something, they're out of a job," that person said.

Not everyone in the agency was upset that Pruitt pinned many of his controversies on his staff Thursday, after giving an opening statement in the House in which he confessed that his first year on the job had been "a learning process."

"When he was putting it on staff, that's the reality of it," one current EPA political appointee said. "Sure he's the administrator, sure he's the head of the agency. That doesn't mean he was aware of the \$40,000. He asked for a secure phone line and the next thing you know it turned into a secure phone booth. ... Overall I think his staff continue to stand beside him today and will continue to do that."

In his testimony, Pruitt said he had never asked for a \$43,000 secure phone booth — only "access to secure communication" — or biometric locks for his office, and he said his security staffers made the call for him to fly first-class to avoid possible threats from other passengers. He said he had authorized his chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, to give raises to his top staff but had no idea that they were circumventing disapproval from the White House. And he chose not to defend his former policy chief against allegations from Democratic lawmakers that she was not in the office for months, even though an EPA spokesman had dismissed the accusations as "baseless and absurd."

A second political appointee said Pruitt didn't break any new ground with his defenses, and that controversies dogging him had been "all blown out of context."

The person called Pruitt a "disruptor" and said "folks don't like that aggressive style."

"Administrator Pruitt speaks for a certain aspect of the Trump administration conservative movement," the appointee said.

Eric Wolff and Anthony Adragna contributed to this report.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/article/2018/04/pruitts-scorched-earth-strategy-adds-to-staffs-despair-507221>

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From: Smith, Kevin (Portman) [Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2018 3:26:58 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Here you go

I'm very familiar with the issue

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/07/AR2006020701913.html>

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:24 AM
To: Smith, Kevin (Portman) <Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Here you go

POTUS is a real estate guy. He said looks about right in his tweet. ☺

From: Smith, Kevin (Portman) [mailto:Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Here you go

What's your pushback on the rental?

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:19 AM
To: Smith, Kevin (Portman) <Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov>
Subject: Here you go

On-The-Record ... "According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "“We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,” said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. ‘They run the variety of direct death threats -- ‘I'm going to put a bullet in your brain’ -- to implied threats -- ‘if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,’” Sullivan told CNN in an interview. ‘Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: ‘If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.’” (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of

about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." ([E&E News](#), 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,' Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy](#)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wallace, Gregory [gregory.wallace@turner.com]
Sent: 5/7/2018 8:48:37 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Re: Here is our statement for this story

Thank you kindly.

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 3:29 PM
To: Wallace, Gregory
Subject: Here is our statement for this story

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/07/politics/epa-pruitt-memos-waivers-first-class/index.html>



New scandals only add to problems for Pruitt

www.cnn.com

Documents provided to Congress fail to show Scott Pruitt got federally required waivers to fly first class -- and if he did, then his office has twice declined to ...

“We are working diligently with Chairman Gowdy and are in full cooperation in providing the Committee with the necessary documents, travel vouchers, receipts and witnesses to his inquiries.”

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/29/2018 4:19:01 PM
To: Ganim, Sara [Sara.Ganim@turner.com]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: RE: QUESTIONS FROM CNN: Pruitt personal travel and security

“Administrator Pruitt follows the same security protocol whether he’s in his personal or official capacity.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Ganim, Sara [mailto:Sara.Ganim@turner.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 12:14 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: QUESTIONS FROM CNN: Pruitt personal travel and security

Good afternoon --

CNN is working on a story about Administrator Pruitt's travel and his security, and we would like to give you a chance to respond. Our deadline is 3p today.

We intend to report the following facts.

-Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has written a letter to the EPA IG with new information, suggesting that Pruitt's 24-7 security extends beyond his official business, and that security teams have accompanied him on several personal trips.

Those trips include:

- to his home in Tulsa, Ok. for unofficial business
- to a Dec. 29 University of Kentucky basketball game in Lexington.
- from Cincinnati to Los Angeles with his family for a trip to the Rose Bowl on January 1, followed by two days in Disneyland.

-The letter also states that documents obtained by Whitehouse show Pruitt used 32 different agents during a six-week period.

-Some of those agents were reassigned from investigating environmental crimes.

-A source has told CNN that some in Pruitt's security detail have grown frustrated with having to protect the him on non-official business, and the frustration really boiled over with the trip to Disneyland.

- Whitehouse's letter also states that "more than one source" says Pruitt "frequently requested per diem lodging expenses in excess of the federal government's established daily rate."

Additionally, can you tell me if Pruitt's security flies first class on his non-official travel? Does Pruitt fly first for non-official travel? If not, can you tell me why?

Who pays for the flights, per diem, and accommodations when Pruitt brings security for personal travel?

--

Sara Ganim
CNN Washington
954-663-2523

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/29/2018 8:44:31 PM
To: Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO; **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; lincoln.ferguson@epa.gov; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]
Subject: RE: ABC News: EXCLUSIVE: More cabinet trouble for Trump? EPA chief lived in condo tied to lobbyist 'power couple'

We talked to Raj and assumed you would kick it back to us. Thank you!

From: Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO; **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 4:35 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; lincoln.ferguson@epa.gov; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: ABC News: EXCLUSIVE: More cabinet trouble for Trump? EPA chief lived in condo tied to lobbyist 'power couple'

Lindsay Walters was asked about this during her press gaggle on AF1. She referred questions back to EPA.

From: Comms Alert [mailto:CommsAlert@gop.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 11:30 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ABC News: EXCLUSIVE: More cabinet trouble for Trump? EPA chief lived in condo tied to lobbyist 'power couple'

EXCLUSIVE: More cabinet trouble for Trump? EPA chief lived in condo tied to lobbyist 'power couple'

ABC News

John Santucci, Matthew Mosk & Stephanie Ebbs

March 29, 2018 – 11:22 AM

>http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/exclusive-cabinet-trouble-trump-epa-chief-lived-condo/story?id=54095310&cid=social_twitter_abcnpc

For much of his first year in Washington, President Trump's EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt occupied prime real estate in a townhouse near the U.S. Capitol that is co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist, property records from 2017 show.

Neither the EPA nor the lobbyist, J. Steven Hart, would say how much Pruitt paid to live at the prime Capitol Hill address, though Hart said he believed it to be the market rate. The price tag on Pruitt's rental arrangement is one key question when determining if it constitutes an improper gift, ethics experts told ABC News.

"I think it certainly creates a perception problem, especially if Mr. Hart is seeking to influence the agency," said Bryson Morgan, the former investigative counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives Office of Congressional Ethics. "That's why there is a gift rule."

Hart confirmed to ABC News in a brief interview that Pruitt had lived in the flat, which is owned by a limited liability company that links to an address listed to Hart and his wife Vicki Hart, a lobbyist with expertise in the healthcare arena. Steven Hart said Vicki Hart co-owns the condo. He said his wife was not the majority owner, but would not identify her partners.

"I have no ownership interest," he said. "Obviously, I know the owners."

Vicki Hart does no lobbying involving the EPA, her husband said. Her website says she previously worked as a senior health policy advisor for two Senate Majority Leaders before establishing her firm in 2002.

Steven Hart served in the Reagan Justice Department and became, according to his website, is one of the nation's top fundraisers, donating more than \$110,000 to Republican political candidates and committees last election cycle, records show.

In 2010, the newspaper Roll Call referred to the Harts as a "lobbyist power couple."

Mr. Hart is the chairman and CEO of Williams and Jensen, a firm that reported more than \$16 million in federal lobbying income in 2017, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Among his many clients are the NRA and Cheniere Energy Inc., which reported paying Hart's firm \$80,000 a year.

Hart's firm specifically lobbied on "issues related to the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG), approval of LNG exports and export facilities." The firm also lists on its website that it lobbies on other EPA policies like the Clean Air Act.

Cheniere Energy Inc. owned the only active Liquid Natural Gas export plant in the United States at the time. Liquid natural gas exports was on the agenda for discussion during Pruitt's December 2017 trip to Morocco, according to an agency press release.

On the trip, Pruitt pitched "the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports on Morocco's economy," the release said.

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On the trip, Pruitt pitched "the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports on Morocco's economy," the release said.

The revelations about Pruitt's living situation come as more questions are being raised by members of Congress about his travel habits. The Morocco trip was one of Pruitt's most expensive. ABC News has learned that Pruitt, his head of security, and an additional member of his staff, Samantha Dravis, all flew first class on the trip.

The EPA inspector general expanded an audit of Pruitt's travel to include the Morocco trip in response to a request from Sen. Tom Carper, the ranking Democrat on a committee with oversight of EPA. Carper specifically asked the agency watchdog to look into whether Pruitt's activities on the trip were "in line with EPA's mission 'to protect human health and the environment.'"

Both environmental groups and members of Congress pointed out that the jurisdiction over natural gas exports typically falls to the Department of Energy - not the EPA.

A spokeswoman for Cheniere Energy declined to comment.

Another lobbying client of Hart's, the railroad Norfolk Southern, spent \$160,000 last year on lobbying Congress on "issues affecting coal usage, oil production, and transportation, including EPA regulation."

Norfolk Southern also declined to comment when reached by ABC News.

Morgan, an ethics expert in private practice in Washington, D.C., said the lobbying connection only further muddies the living arrangement. He said the rental agreement could create ethics problems for Pruitt even if he did reimburse his landlord for rent.

"What are the terms of the rental agreement?" Morgan asked. "It's not just a question if he is paying market rent. Was he given the ability to end it immediately? Would someone come after him if he were not to pay rent?"

Morgan said the most recent guidance from the Office of Government Ethics "emphasized that executive branch officials should decline even a permissible gift if it could cause the public to question their integrity or impartiality."

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox declined to answer questions about the arrangement.

Vicki Hart reached on her cell phone, said she would call back to discuss the matter but never did.

Steven Hart declined to address details of the rental agreement, saying it was a private matter and up to Pruitt to decide whether they should be made public.

The White House has not responded to a request for comment from ABC News.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/30/2018 10:03:11 PM
To: Radnofsky, Louise [louise.radnofsky@wsj.com]
Subject: RE: Administrator Pruitt's travel
Attachments: Evaluation of Lease Agreement2018-03-30-152600.pdf

Wanted to make sure you saw the attached memo and statement from EPA:

“As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Radnofsky, Louise [mailto:louise.radnofsky@wsj.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Administrator Pruitt's travel

Jahan,

More broadly, does EPA have comment today on the administrator's travel, living arrangements and other issues that appear to be the subject of increasing scrutiny -- and is he confident that he continues to have the confidence of the White House?

Louise

On Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 10:14 AM, Radnofsky, Louise <louise.radnofsky@wsj.com> wrote:

Thank you. Was it the practice of past administrations for EPA administrators to fly first or business class on domestic travel?

On Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 9:13 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Louise –

On background, want to make sure you saw this Washington Post article from March 20, 2018 as they reported on this.

- **Washington Post: New documents show nearly \$68,000 in recent premium flights, hotel stays for EPA’s Pruitt.** https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/03/20/new-documents-show-nearly-68000-in-recent-premium-flights-hotel-stays-for-epas-pruitt/?utm_term=.bed7a2ddae44

Additionally, regarding international travel we wanted to make sure you saw these two stories from Fox News and the New York Post:

- **Fox News: Obama's EPA appointees spent as much, or more, on travel than Trump's Pruitt, data show.** <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/03/22/obamas-epa-appointees-spent-as-much-or-more-on-travel-than-trumps-pruitt-data-show.amp.html>
- **New York Post: Scott Pruitt slammed for spending less on travel than Obama's EPA chiefs.** <https://nypost.com/2018/03/23/scott-pruitt-in-hot-water-for-spending-less-on-travel-than-obamas-epa-chiefs/amp/>

Finally, here is our on-the-record statement:

- **"We have responded to Chairman Gowdy. The letter explains, EPA's Protective Service Detail identified specific ongoing threats associated with Administrator Pruitt's travel and shifted his class based on certain security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Radnofsky, Louise [mailto:louise.radnofsky@wsj.com]

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:02 PM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Administrator Pruitt's travel

All:

I received a copy of the administrator's travel records through FOIA today. My understanding of the documents, after reviewing them, is that they show dozens of short domestic flights in which he flew first class and incurred four-figure bills for tickets as a result. And in all, with two international trips and a handful of chartered and military flights, Mr. Pruitt's travel costs exceeded \$150,000 in the year after he became administrator.

I'd welcome comment from you, both on the tally and on the substantive issue. Please let me know.

Best,

Louise Radnofsky

--

Louise Radnofsky

The Wall Street Journal

202 862 9296

202 374 9782

--

Louise Radnofsky

The Wall Street Journal

202 862 9296

202 374 9782

--

Louise Radnofsky

The Wall Street Journal

202 862 9296

202 374 9782

Message

From: Kelly, Albert [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=08576E43795149E5A3F9669726DD044C-KELLY, ALBE]
Sent: 4/18/2018 10:04:02 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Setting The Record Straight About The AP's Story ...

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202 306 8830

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 5:56 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Setting The Record Straight About The AP's Story ...
Importance: High

Approval Needed For This Includes: Ryan and Matt

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

- **EPA STATEMENT:** “The same security procedures are followed whether Administrator Pruitt is on official or personal travel.” – Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman



@EPA confirms @AP reports that @EPAScottPruitt sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer's dime, despite claims he needed to fly in first class when traveling at government expense because of security concerns (1/2)



EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer's dime
WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt flew in coach-class seats on at least two trips home to Oklahoma when taxpayers

4:58 PM · 18 Apr 2018

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: 4/19/2018 12:13:29 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Re: Wanted to make sure you got this

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:29 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Date: April 18, 2018 at 6:52:23 PM EDT
To: "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Setting The Record Straight About The AP's Story ...

Good evening –

The Associated Press is out with a new story with a misleading headline that reads: “EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer’s dime.”

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Despite their misleading headline, the Associated Press knowingly reported that that there are no premium-class seats on Southwest Airlines.** “Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt flew in coach-class seats on at least two trips home to Oklahoma when taxpayers weren’t footing the bill, despite claims he needed to travel in first class at government expense because of security threats. Copies of Pruitt’s official schedule released this week following a public records request show flights made in August and October to Tulsa on Southwest Airlines, a budget carrier that doesn’t offer premium-class seats.” ([The Associated Press](#), 04/18/18)

The fact is: Administrator Pruitt consistently follows the same security measures, which is not about sitting in first class but sitting near the front of the plane. It’s impossible to fly first-class on Southwest Airlines, however Administrator Pruitt always sat in the first few rows of the aircraft.

Additionally, the AP falsely tweeted out that EPA confirmed the report, which is not accurate. Below is the on-the-record statement that was given to the Associated Press:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**EPA STATEMENT: “The same security procedures are followed whether Administrator Pruitt is on official or personal travel.”** – Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman



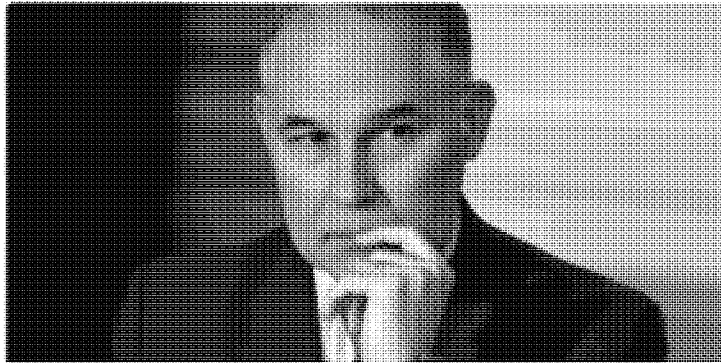
Michael Biesecker

@mbieseck

Follow



@EPA confirms @AP reports that @EPAScottPruitt sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer's dime, despite claims he needed to fly in first class when traveling at government expense because of security concerns (1/2)



EPA chief sat in coach when not flying on taxpayer's dime

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt flew in coach-class seats on at least two trips home to Oklahoma when taxpayers

[apnews.com](#)

4:58 PM - 18 Apr 2018

###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 12/13/2017 4:35:53 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Hupp, Millan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=92cac7b684b64f90953b753a01bee0d5-Hupp, Milla]
Subject: FW: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Jahan,

I see you guys issued a press release about Pruitt's trip to Morocco, after refusing to comment about it to AP. We plan to write about the taxpayer-incurred costs of the trip.

They include Pruitt's airline ticket cost \$17,597.49 and a total cost of at least \$39,067 for five people (including Pruitt, Ryan Jackson, Samantha Dravis and security staff).

Please provide on the record comment on EPA's perspective on why these costs were justified. How did the purpose of the trip, which was to promote "the potential benefit of liquefied natural gas imports on Morocco's economy" fulfil EPA's mission to protect the environment and enforce U.S. environmental laws?

Also, please comment on why the cost of Pruitt's ticket was several times that of the others in the EPA contingent and would appear to indicate he flew First Class. Why was that level of luxury necessary for a public servant traveling at taxpayer expense?

I have a 1:30 deadline for this story, so your quick response is appreciated.

Thanks,

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 1:30 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Can you affirm on the record that all of Administrator Pruitt's meeting with Bob Murray are listed on his calendar?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

“Due to security concerns we do not comment on Administrator Pruitt’s upcoming schedule, but every meeting that he attends is posted on www.epa.gov.”

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Still hoping to get a response to this. Administrator Pruitt is a public official. His travel shouldn’t be a secret.

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Liz, Jahan,

Can you confirm whether Administrator Pruitt will be attending the climate summit in Paris this week. We also heard he’s headed to Morocco. Could you provide any detail about what he’ll be doing there?

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Get Outlook for iOS

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Subject: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

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To: Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Hupp, Millan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=92cac7b684b64f90953b753a01bee0d5-Hupp, Milla]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:59 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

“Administrator Pruitt flew commercially to Morocco and due to security concerns he was required to be in business class. Like all federal travel, the airfare is a government rate.”

“We do not comment on security procedures. If the Associated Press is attempting to expose the number of security agents needed to protector the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on this trip that is your decision, but that is highly unusual.”

“I would double-check with your source regarding the individuals on this trip, it’s always embarrassing for the AP to report false information.”

The details about this trip are provided here:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-promotes-environmental->

cooperation-us-partners-morocco

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 11:32 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Jahan,

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Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Sent: 12/13/2017 6:30:56 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]
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Importance: High

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From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1:19 PM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APPROVAL: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco
Importance: High

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
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From: Wilcox, Jahan
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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
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To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>
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Sent: 12/13/2017 6:40:25 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=12a3c2ed7158417fb0bb1b1b72a8cfb0-Grantham, Nancy]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]
Subject: FW: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Nancy, Liz & others – FYI.

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Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1:38 PM
To: 'Biesecker, Michael' <MBiesecker@ap.org>; 'Pace, Julie' <JPace@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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Sent: 12/13/2017 6:54:35 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]
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Also, please comment on why the cost of Pruitt's ticket was several times that of the others in the EPA contingent and would appear to indicate he flew First Class. Why was that level of luxury necessary for a public servant traveling at taxpayer expense?

I have a 1:30 deadline for this story, so your quick response is appreciated.

Thanks,

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 1:30 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Can you affirm on the record that all of Administrator Pruitt's meeting with Bob Murray are listed on his calendar?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

"Due to security concerns we do not comment on Administrator Pruitt's upcoming schedule, but every meeting that he attends is posted on www.epa.gov."

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Still hoping to get a response to this. Administrator Pruitt is a public official. His travel shouldn't be a secret.

Michael

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt in Paris/Morocco

Liz, Jahan,

Can you confirm whether Administrator Pruitt will be attending the climate summit in Paris this week. We also heard he's headed to Morocco. Could you provide any detail about what he'll be doing there?

Thanks,

Michael

Get Outlook for iOS

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at 212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 12/13/2017 10:02:15 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]
Subject: FW: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

FYI. If you have a specific question regarding this strategy please stop by my desk.

From: Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

Oh, now that makes sense. OK. Thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
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To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

No. They are appointees on our advance team, but security (requires advance staff to travel with them). Then we have the actual agents, which we never disclosure. Cite or report however you see is most accurate.

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Advance/Security Detail (Not determined by EPA)

Millian Hupp
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And I will decide when I write it, but I would most likely use folks' names, just because it helps give a sense of their expertise, and of course, tax dollars were spent on their travel.
Best, Juliet

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Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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Senior Advisor – Lincoln Ferguson
Press Secretary – Kelsi Daniell

We also have one person from our advance team, but they have to travel with our security team, per our security so it's hard to count that person when security forces them to come.

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Subject: RE: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

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And if you can get the details of who went on the trip, apart from the security detail, I’d appreciate it.
Best, Juliet
Juliet

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To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
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On background/without attribution/no fingerprints – it would be 100 percent accurate for your story to say that 3 of the 5 flights were business-class and 2 of the 5 flights were economy.

Here is our on-the-record statement which you can attribute to me: **“Due to concerns from our security team, Administrator Pruitt was granted a waiver by EPA’s Chief Financial Officer to fly business-class.”**

Jahan Wilcox
EPA
Strategic Communications Advisor
Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 3/20/2018 7:15:13 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: FW: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:00 PM
To: White, Elizabeth <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Lyons, Troy
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:29 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

With this story out OGR is breathing down our necks. I'm trying to hold them back but I'm running out of life boat.

By Emily Holden

03/20/2018 11:57 AM EDT

The cost for the security team to accompany EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on a trip to Italy for international meetings in June totaled nearly \$31,000, bringing the price tag for Pruitt's trip to at least \$120,000, according to public records released to the Environmental Integrity Project under a lawsuit.

The additional expenditures include airline fare, lodging and accommodations for Pruitt's security guards, EIP said. EPA would not disclose whether any security staff flew first or business class alongside Pruitt, the group said.

Information obtained by EIP last month showed the four-day trip by Pruitt and his staffers cost about \$53,000 in expenses. Pruitt also spent \$36,000 on a military flight to New York to catch a plane to Rome for meetings ahead of the G-7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, after attending an infrastructure event with the president in Cincinnati.

Pruitt appeared briefly at the G-7 talks before returning to Washington for a Cabinet meeting.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/03/security-for-pruitts-italy-trip-cost-31k-844666>

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Yes, very



Somewhat



Neutral



Not really



Not at all

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POLITICOPRO

This email was sent to cory.preston@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC [1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA](#)

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2018, at 11:42 AM, Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov> wrote:

Any update on a final draft?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2018, at 7:12 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

I hope. Tomorrow for sure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lyons, Troy

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:11 PM

To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>

Cc: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>;

Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process/Attorney Client

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2018, at 7:02 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lyons, Troy

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:02 PM

To: Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan
<jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ringel,
Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>

Subject: URGENT-Response to Gowdy

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process/Attorney Client

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: 12/13/2017 9:52:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

Oh, now that makes sense. OK. Thanks.

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Subject: RE: Please confirm you got this. Thanks, Jahan

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Special Assistance of Advance - Forrest McMurray

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And I will decide when I write it, but I would most likely use folks' names, just because it helps give a sense of their expertise, and of course, tax dollars were spent on their travel.

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Juliet

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Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:08 PM

To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>

Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: 12/14/2017 12:33:52 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Hey

No worries, we can adjust that. I was just trying to clarify why it was hard to pull those numbers together.

And I will likely circle back tomorrow on profile stuff, but we are generally in decent shape.
Best, Juliet

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 7:19 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: Hey

Regarding Morocco ...

It's not that each staffer booked their travel on his or her own arrangement but through their respective department.

So Policy, Advance, Press all go through their dedicated career person. It's not like you book travel on your own.

Does that make sense. Could you update to reflect that each person goes through their department.

Unless you think that is unreasonable or I am reading your story wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 13, 2017, at 6:20 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

I don't have that as every department (career staff) books the reservation on their own and honestly everyone left.

I didn't even know that Jane went until Liz Bowman told - that's why she wasn't included on my first batch of names.

I can check tomorrow.

On Dec 13, 2017, at 6:03 PM, Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com> wrote:

Sorry, last question: can you provide an estimate of the cost of the trip? My editor just asked me. Thanks.

On Dec 13, 2017, at 4:52 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

No. They are appointees on our advance team, but security (requires advance staff to travel with them). Then we have the actual agents, which we never disclosure. Cite or report however

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 9/29/2017 10:46:08 PM
To: Goldman, Julianna [GoldmanJ@cbsnews.com]
Subject: RS: The Media Targets Scott Pruitt Over Private Plane Use And They Are Dead Wrong

The Media Targets Scott Pruitt Over Private Plane Use And They Are Dead Wrong

Red State

September 29, 2017

<https://www.redstate.com/streiff/2017/09/29/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt/>

While everyone has been focusing on the Tom Price affair, the media is trying to use a similar attack on their favorite boogeyman, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. This is the Washington Post: EPA's Pruitt took charter, military flights that cost taxpayers more than \$58,000.

- Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has taken at least four noncommercial and military flights since mid-February, costing taxpayers more than \$58,000 to fly him to various parts of the country, according to records provided to a congressional oversight committee and obtained by The Washington Post.

Let me depart here for a moment. When a cabinet secretary, agency administrator, and some sub-cabinet appointments (like, for instance, the head of ICE) travel on official business I don't have a problem with them using a private plane. Federal employees are required to work while on travel and I'd rather they be able to do so comfortably and efficiently. I'd rather they not be worried about being overheard. This is not a new found belief, it is one that I held when Obama officials were getting dinged for using military aircraft for travel. Where I leave is when government aircraft are used for holiday travel:

- In 2014, Holder, while attorney general, boarded a government-owned Gulfstream and flew to the Belmont Stakes Thoroughbred horse race in New York with his daughters, their boyfriends and two security officers. According to records obtained by The Daily Caller from the Department of Justice, that trip cost the government \$14,440. But Holder only had to reimburse the government \$955 for that flight — the equivalent cost of a coach commercial airline ticket for each non-law enforcement passenger.

Fox News' John Roberts dug into the story and this is what he found:

- SANDRA SMITH: John, you're getting new information on EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's charter and government flights.
- JOHN ROBERTS: All of this started with HHH Secretary Tom Price and if the revelation that he spent \$400,000 on private flights. Now people are talking about the EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt taking a number of noncommercial flights.
- A source tells me it was four flights in total. The only charter flight was one between Denver, Colorado and Duragno. This was after the commercial flight on United Airlines that the Administrator was booked on, was delayed for eight hours and he would have missed this event in a mine had they not chartered the flight. They also asked the Governor of Colorado if they could jump on his plane. They were initially told there was no room. And then after they chartered the aircraft, the Governor said well we've got one seat, which still wouldn't have been any good. The Administrator could've flown but his staff wouldn't have.

- The other flights were government flights. One was a military flight from Cincinnati to JFK so the Administrator could jump a commercial flight to Italy ... so that he attend the G7 Summit. Another was a Department of Interior flight inside of Oklahoma. Would have taken more than five hours to drive there. The EPA reimbursed the Department of Interior for that. The other one was ride on the Governor of North Dakota's aircraft between two cities in North Dakota, between Fargo and Grand Forks for which the governor was reimbursed. All of that was cleared by the EPA office of ethics. So they're saying this is not a Tom Price situation, this is completely different. Sandra.
- SMITH: John Roberts, thank you.

In fact, when you look into the Post's story, they say much the same.

- On July 27, records show, Pruitt and six staff members arranged a flight on a Department of Interior plane from Tulsa to the tiny outpost of Guymon, Okla., at a cost of \$14,434.50. The EPA noted that "time constraints" on Pruitt's schedule wouldn't allow him to make the 10-hour round-trip drive. The purpose of the trip was to meet with landowners "whose farms have been affected" by a controversial rule regulating water bodies in the United States, according to the agency. Pruitt has initiated a process to withdraw the regulation, known as the Waters of the United States rule.
- Bowman said that between 50 and 100 farmers and others from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas attended the session in Guymon.

Note the aircraft was owned by Department of the Interior.

- Pruitt and three staff members arranged a private air charter on Aug. 4, on a trip from Denver to Durango, Colo. The flight cost \$5,719.58. According to the EPA, the commercial flight Pruitt had planned to take "was delayed ultimately for eight hours, which would have caused him to miss a mission critical meeting at Gold King Mine" with Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and other officials. Hickenlooper offered a seat on his plane, but Bowman said that the governor's aircraft only had room for Pruitt and that the EPA already had booked the private plane by then. The charter company involved, Mayo Aviation, bills itself as "Colorado's premier jet charter service."

We don't know if the booking could have been canceled without penalty, but probably not. And in any event, it isn't like Pruitt would have been flying free. As we see later, he would still have had to reimburse Colorado for the flight. One gets the feeling this is the real bone they have to pick with Pruitt over this particular flight:

- That day, Pruitt criticized how two years earlier EPA had mishandled operations at the Gold King Mine, where the agency inadvertently triggered a spill that polluted rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. "The previous administration failed those who counted on them to protect the environment," he said in a statement, vowing to reconsider claims for damages the government previously had denied.
- Finally, on Aug. 9, Pruitt and two staffers traveling in North Dakota flew on a state-owned plane to an event in Grand Forks. The flight cost the EPA \$2,144.40. "The Governor of the State of North Dakota offered seats on the state-owned plane to transport the Administrator to this event," the agency noted in its justification for the trip, which involved touring the University of North Dakota's Environmental Research Center. "There is no government rate established for this route."

The important takeaway from this last bit is that here Pruitt flew on a state-owned plane by the governor "offer[ing] seats." In other words he took the North Dakota governor up on the offer he had been forced to decline from Colorado's governor. He was still bill \$2,144. The preceding paragraph makes it seem as though Pruitt was being offered a free ride. He wasn't. Ironically, the clincher is in the Post's own story:

- The records also indicate that Pruitt, along with a member of his security detail, flies either in business or first class when those seats are available on commercial flights. Multiple EPA travel documents state that Pruitt “is entitled to business class accommodation due to security concerns.” Bowman said that while Pruitt flies in such classes when that is an option, he has also flown on multiple occasions in coach.

This whole private/charter/military aircraft scandal is a nothingburger. It is the way business has always been conducted. In fact, the Trump administration has even been tighter on using non-commercial flights than the Obama administration.

- According to statistics provided by a senior administration official, the Trump White House has authorized fewer trips on military planes for senior officials than the Obama administration did during the first eight months in office.
- From Jan. 20 to Sept. 19, the Trump administration authorized 77 military flights, while the Obama administration allowed 94 flights during the same time period, according to the stats.

[I know I’m guilty of the sin of “whatabboutism” here because it is totally off limits to point out what any previous administration did if it means you aren’t taking a shot at President Trump and his administration.]

###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 3:33:33 PM
To: Emily Holden [eholden@politico.com]; Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: "EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"

It's actually different.

From: Emily Holden [mailto:eholden@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: "EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"

This is the same response from last week. Can you address your own internal reports suggesting the actual threats don't justify his security arrangements? Thank you.

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate
POLITICO
eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (Mobile, WhatsApp, Signal, Confide)

[@emilyhholden](#)

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:31 AM
To: Emily Holden <eholden@politico.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: "EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"

"Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within OECA using information collected from the PSD, EPA's Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy," said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. "They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. "Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. "In an interview with E&E News,

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." ([E&E News](#), 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,' Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

From: Emily Holden [<mailto:eholden@politico.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:25 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: "EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"

Do you have a comment on this letter? Are these examples of threats all of what you have used to justify Pruitt's higher security level and expenses? Why doesn't the report list any threats during air travel? Would need a comment ASAP, thanks.

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate

POLITICO

eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (Mobile, WhatsApp, Signal, Confide)

[@emilyholden](#)

From: Davidson, Richard (Whitehouse) [mailto:Richard_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:47 AM
To: Davidson, Richard (Whitehouse) <Richard_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov>
Cc: Brennan, Christine (EPW) <Christine_Brennan@epw.senate.gov>
Subject: "EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"

Hi again, all,

We have another letter for you from Senators Whitehouse and Carper on Pruitt. This one calls into question the justification for Pruitt's 24-7 security detail and other security measures (first-class flights, security sweeps of EPA facilities, etc.) based on documents brought to our attention by a whistleblower. This information is being sent to Senator Barrasso calling for bipartisan oversight hearings by Senate EPW. The full details are below, but here are the key take-aways:

- Secret Service security threat assessments from 2017 and 2018 identify no "reports of behaviors of interest" against the administrator
- The Joint Terrorism Task Force reported in October there are "no known investigations underway concerning threats to Scott Pruitt"
- Pruitt's security detail's justification for the extensive security measures Pruitt enjoys relies largely on negligible threats such as non-violent protests, negative feedback about the Administrator's actions or other First Amendment protected activity
- An internal EPA review of Pruitt's security justification concludes it "DOES NOT employ sound analysis or articulate relevant 'threat specific' information appropriate to draw any resource or level of threat conclusions regarding the protection posture for the Administrator"; and that "[u]sing all source intelligence resources, EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator"
- The internal review also concludes that it has "not seen any analysis to indicate why the Administrator would be at any greater risk on a commercial airline than any other passenger, or why a trained EPA PSD member could not protect the Administrator in a different location on the aircraft [than in the business or first-class section]"

Note: Given that this information deals with details of threats to a cabinet official, we are not making the underlying reports available.

Full text of the Senators' letter is below. A PDF is attached.

April 10, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso,

We write to request that the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee immediately initiate bipartisan oversight hearings into the extent and justification of security spending for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt. Documents provided to us by EPA official(s) suggest the agency has relied on questionable "threats" to the Administrator, including reports of non-violent protests, negative feedback about the Administrator's actions, or other First Amendment protected activity, to justify millions of dollars in

additional security spending, including first-class air travel, as compared to his predecessors at the agency. These non-public documents include security threat assessments from the United States Secret Service that identify no “reports of behaviors of interest” against Administrator Pruitt, and an internal EPA Intelligence Office report that disputes the Administrator’s claims that the nature of the threats against him justify his expenditures. We are providing this information to you under confidential cover in an abundance of caution to protect any specific ongoing security efforts.

Administrator Pruitt has adopted numerous, unprecedented safety measures during his tenure at EPA: 24-7 security staffed by a detail of as many as 20 EPA officers, first-class flights ostensibly to more effectively protect the Administrator while travelling by air, and a security sweep of and biometric locks for the Administrator’s office. The Associated Press reported this weekend that total security costs and associated travel expenses have already cost taxpayers \$3 million.^[1]

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox was quoted on April 6 as saying the Administrator and his family have faced an “unprecedented” number of death threats, a statement that was amplified the following day by President Trump who stated that “Scott Pruitt has received death threats because of his bold actions at EPA.”^[2] In its March 21, 2018 response to a February 15, 2018 letter from Senators Tom Carper and Gary Peters about the Administrator’s first-class flights, EPA wrote that its Protective Security Detail (PSD) “has identified specific, ongoing threats associated with the Administrator’s air travel” and has relied on assessments from EPA’s Office of Inspector General (EPA OIG) that the Administrator is facing more security threats than his predecessor. These assertions do not appear to be consistent with the non-public EPA documents we have obtained and enclose here.

For example, one document we are providing to you is an October 17, 2017 memorandum from William Stull, Special Agent on the Administrator’s PSD, to Pasquale Nino Perrotta, the PSD’s Special Agent in Charge.^[3] The memo purports to summarize available threat information regarding Administrator Pruitt, claiming that the EPA OIG data showed 16 threats directed against the Administrator, a 400% increase over threats in the previous fiscal year against then-EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. A closer look at the description of many of these threats cast doubt that they appropriately justify the kinds of security measures Mr. Pruitt has sought, as they include:

- Protestors attempting to disrupt a speech given by Mr. Pruitt at a closed event.
- A social media post in which an individual “stated he is not happy with some of the Administrator’s policies and wanted to express his displeasure.”
- A postcard sent to the Administrator stating “CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!!! We are watching you. For the sake of our planet, our children & our grandchildren, will you be a reasonable man? I repeat, we are watching you!”
- An email stating: “Hi, I am considering dumping the old paint I just scraped off of my home outside your office door on Tuesday.”
- A letter addressed to the Administrator that did not include “overt threatening language” from an incarcerated individual.

Notably, none of the incidents listed in this report concerned air travel and the only threat to Administrator Pruitt currently being prosecuted by a United States Attorney’s office was a threat made to him and his predecessor Gina McCarthy.

^[1] Michael Biesecker, “AP sources: EPA chief spent millions on security and travel,” *The Associated Press*, April 7, 2018 <https://www.apnews.com/e2f3c3fe88bc432792817795a34fda46>.

^[2] https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/982770847046922240?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2018%2F04%2F07%2Fpolitics%2Ftrump-pruitt-epa-tweet%2Findex.html

^[3] We wrote to EPA on March 6, 2018, raising numerous concerns about Mr. Perrotta, including potential self-dealing, and questioning his ability to run a security consulting business while employed at EPA. We also raised concerns about how Mr. Perrotta came to be Special Agent in Charge, which have been heightened in light of recent reporting by the New York Times that Mr. Perrotta’s predecessor, Eric Weese, was removed from his position for when he “questioned Mr. Pruitt’s desire to use flashing lights and sirens in his motorcade.” See Eric Lipton, Kenneth P. Vogel, Lisa Friedman, “E.P.A. Officials Sidelined After Questioning Scott Pruitt,” *New York Times*, April 5, 2018. We have not yet received a response from EPA to that letter.

The October 17 assessment also states that at the time there were “no known investigations underway concerning threats to Scott Pruitt” by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and that an open-source review of social media uncovered “no evidence of a direct threat to the Administrator’s life or physical well-being.”

We have also obtained, and are providing to you, a document dated February 14, 2018, from EPA’s Office of Homeland Security Intelligence Team titled “Preliminary Intelligence Enterprise Threat Assessment Review,” which reviewed the PSD’s October 17, 2017 memo. This memo concluded PSD’s October 17 memo “***DOES NOT*** employ sound analysis or articulate relevant ‘threat specific’ information appropriate to draw any resource or level of threat conclusions regarding the protection posture for the Administrator.” (Emphasis in original.) The memo states that “[u]sing all source intelligence resources, **EPA Intelligence has not identified any specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator.**”^[4] (Emphasis in original.)

The February 2018 memo describes repeated efforts by EPA Intelligence officials to tell EPA OIG and EPA’s senior leadership that “the ‘threat’ to the Administrator was being inappropriately mischaracterized by the Protective Service Detail (PSD) and the OIG” and notes that EPA Intelligence has “not seen any analysis to indicate why the Administrator would be at any greater risk on a commercial airline than any other passenger, or why a trained EPA PSD member could not protect the Administrator in a different location on the aircraft [than in the business or first-class section].”

EPA’s Intelligence Team requested from the United States Secret Service a “Direction of Interest Query” on February 21, 2017 and on February 22, 2018 for potential threats against Administrator Pruitt. Neither query returned any “reports of behaviors of interest directed toward EPA Administrator Pruitt.” We have provided you both United States Secret Service reports with this letter.

It is hard to reconcile the public statements of EPA, and the President, with these internal and external assessments. It may be that the materials we have been provided are incomplete and that EPA has additional information that justifies its public position. However, another view is that certain factions within EPA have justified the exorbitant taxpayer spending incurred by the Administrator’s first-class travel and large entourage of security personnel through unsubstantiated claims about threats to his security, either at the direction of the Administrator himself or others in the agency. Either way, the EPW Committee has a responsibility to look into these matters.

As you review this information, we urge you to remind EPA of its obligations under the Whistleblowers Protection Act, as amended. In our view, the documents provided to us may constitute evidence of a “violation of law, rule, regulation, gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.”^[5] As such, any adverse personnel action against a person providing this information to Congress is prohibited, and it is in our shared interest that these rights be protected.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

cc: Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency

^[4] One role of this office “is to identify potential vulnerabilities, and to provide information and guidance to mitigate potential violent actions evolving from inappropriate communications and/or threats that are directed at EPA protected persons and facilities.” Apparently it has been excluded from assessments and decision-making related to the Administrator’s security. This suggests a breakdown of communication and coordination within EPA that should also be an area of inquiry by the EPW Committee.

^[5] 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)

Rich Davidson

~~Deputy Communications Director~~

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 3:59:13 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]; Pace, Julie [JPace@ap.org]; Feldman, Carole [CFeldman@ap.org]
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: Request for comment

“Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within OECA using information collected from the PSD, EPA’s Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,” said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. ‘They run the variety of direct death threats -- ‘I’m going to put a bullet in your brain’ -- to implied threats -- ‘if you don’t classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I’m going to hurt you,’” Sullivan told CNN in an interview. ‘Then there’s implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: ‘If you come after me and my family, I’ll come after you and your family.’” ([CNN](#), 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. ‘He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There’s absolutely no question about it,’ Sullivan said.” ([E&E News](#), 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. “The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. ‘The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,” Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. “What’s really disappointing to me as it’s not just me -- it’s family.”” ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. “The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat,” Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation.” ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA’s Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. “There were ‘incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in

business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:58 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment

Liz and Jahan,

Sens. Carper and Whitehouse have issued a letter saying they obtained internal EPA documents that show no evidence of specific, credible, physical threats against Administrator Pruitt. The letter says they reviewed confidential security assessments describing 16 purported threats. Among them: public protests, criticism of Pruitt's policies and other activities protected by the First Amendment.

The Democrats say they saw no records describing specific, credible threats against Pruitt or his family.

Obviously, this does not square with Jahan's statement on Friday citing "unprecedented" death threats against Pruitt and his family.

Please provide on-the-record response.

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions: www.ap.org/tips

AP is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, two thirds of the world's population sees news from AP.

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 6:21:11 PM
To: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

First-Class Travel: Referring you to our statement made to CBS News - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scott-pruitt-my-very-next-flight-will-be-coach-epa-administrator-the-takeout-interview/>

From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Also, just so I don't get this wrong in my story, what was Kevin's title at that time last year and what is his status now? (I read in the NYT that he had been placed on administrative leave without pay for having raised concerns about the administrator's spending with the White House. Is that right?)

From: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:43 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan'
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Sure, that would be helpful. Also if you can say anything about whether policies or practices for staff travel have changed, let me know. I believe the administrator has said he's foregoing first class/business class travel going forward. Is that also applying to staff (even though the federal govt policy allows it?)

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:31 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Correct and I can say that on-the-record too if you want. Let me know.

BACKGROUND (Delta)

Aug 26 DCA-LAX 5:32A/8:15P
Aug 26 LAX-SYD 10:46A/6:50A +2
Aug 29 SYD-LAX 9:30A/6:05A
Aug 29 LAX-DCA 8:20A/4:41P

From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Three would be better. But you could do it in two. I had about 2 ½, not including travel time, and could've used more.

The 'one day' was a reference to Kevin and Millan. They must have pretty much gotten off the plane, and had to get back on 24 hours or so later.

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Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

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From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com>]
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Got it, that's helpful. And were his dates the same as well (Aug 26-29)?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Background ...

Millan Hupp: \$8,987.56
Kevin Chmielewski: \$9,318.76

From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:06 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Thanks very much, Jahan.

Can you confirm the cost of Kevin's ticket? If he flew the same itinerary that Millan did, was it also around \$9,000?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)

Cc: Press

Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

“This is not news. Government employees who travel for longer than 14 hours are able to fly in business class and our advance team, which included Millan Hupp and Kevin Chmielewski, were adhering to the federal government’s travel policy. Their job was to arrive before Administrator Pruitt, who had meetings planned with the Australian government, but his trip was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:31 AM

To: 'Wilcox.jahan@epa.gov'

Subject: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Hi Jahan,

This is Jeff Mason with Reuters. I’m doing a story about Millan Hupp having traveled on official business last August to Australia on a “business elite” ticket that cost \$8,987. According to the information I have, the trip lasted three days. A comparison fare would have cost \$1,410.

Could you please let me know what the purpose of her trip to Australia was? What was she doing there for the EPA? Was the “business elite” cost approved in advance? And if so, why was that determination made instead of going with a less expensive fare? Was Administrator Pruitt aware of this trip and/or did he direct her to take it?

Any information you could share would be very helpful, and any comment you have that I could include in the story would be helpful, too. Please respond in the next couple hours. We’re planning to run the story around 1 pm.

Thanks,
Jeff

Jeff Mason
White House Correspondent
Reuters

Mobile: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Office:

Follow me on Twitter: @jeffmason1

jeff.mason@thomsonreuters.com
www.reuters.com

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 6:25:34 PM
To: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Let me see if I can grab him.

From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:23 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

On the record from the CoS would be great, please, thanks Jahan. I presume he can address why he was let go?

Jeff Mason
White House Correspondent
Reuters

Mobile:

Office: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Follow

jeff.mason@thomsonreuters.com
www.reuters.com

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:20 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Subject: FW: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Background –

He was the deputy Chief of Staff. The NYT's reporting was not accurate. He was let go at EPA and is not on administrative leave without pay. If you need this on the record let me know and I can get this from our CoS for you.

From: Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:Jeff.Mason@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Also, just so I don't get this wrong in my story, what was Kevin's title at that time last year and what is his status now? (I read in the NYT that he had been placed on administrative leave without pay for having raised concerns about the administrator's spending with the White House. Is that right?)

From: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:43 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan'
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Sure, that would be helpful. Also if you can say anything about whether policies or practices for staff travel have changed, let me know. I believe the administrator has said he's foregoing first class/business class travel going forward. Is that also applying to staff (even though the federal govt policy allows it?)

From: Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:31 PM
To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)
Subject: RE: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

Correct and I can say that on-the-record too if you want. Let me know.

BACKGROUND (Delta)
Aug 26 DCA-LAX 5:32A/8:15P
Aug 26 LAX-SYD 10:46A/6:50A +2
Aug 29 SYD-LAX 9:30A/6:05A
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Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 1:00 PM

To: Mason, Jeff (Reuters)

Cc: Press

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To: 'Wilcox.jahan@epa.gov'

Subject: Reuters story on Millan Hupp travel to Australia last year

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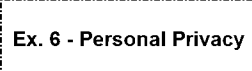

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Thanks,
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Jeff Mason
White House Correspondent
Reuters

Mobile: 
Office: 

Follow me on Twitter: @jeffmason1

jeff.mason@thomsonreuters.com
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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 9:58:21 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
CC: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: a question about the removal of the Deputy Associate Administrator at EPA's Office of Homeland Security

EPA STATEMENT: "We do not comment on personnel matters. The action today was based on a recommendation by the Office of Administration and Resources Management. I am not aware of any connection between the personnel matter and the document mentioned in media reports."

– Donna Vizian, EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:27 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Cc: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: a question about the removal of the Deputy Associate Administrator at EPA's Office of Homeland Security

Will handle

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2018, at 4:21 PM, Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com> wrote:

Dear Press Team,

We are writing that Mario Caraballo, Deputy Associate Administrator at EPA's Office of Homeland Security, has been removed from his post. (We know Politico has reported this, and we had independently confirmed it.)

Would you like to provide a comment?

Best, Juliet

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Seeking comment re: security detail

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

"Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within OECA using information collected from the PSD, EPA's Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General. Americans should all agree that

members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy," said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. 'They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. 'Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" (CNN [cnn.com], 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. "In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." (E&E News [eenews.net], 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different," Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" (Bloomberg [bloomberg.com], 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." (Bloomberg [bloomberg.com], 10/26/17)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" (Bloomberg [bloomberg.com], 02/15/18)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." (Bloomberg [bloomberg.com], 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." (Bloomberg [bloomberg.com], 02/15/18)

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:45 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>

Subject: Seeking comment re: security detail

Hi all,

We are writing on a just-released letter from Sen. Carper and Sen. Whitehouse, questioning the agency's justifications for Administrator Pruitt's 24/7 security. The letter is attached.

For now, we have made sure to include the comments on security needs that Jahan sent over the weekend. But wanted to reach back out for any additional comment.

Thanks,
Brady

The Washington Post

Brady Dennis
National Staff
Health, Science & Environment

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Email: brady.dennis@washpost.com

Twitter: [@brady_dennis](https://twitter.com/brady_dennis) [twitter.com]

Stories: <http://wapo.st/2sS5gfK> [wapo.st]

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/11/2018 7:32:40 PM
To: Alemany, Jacqueline [AlemanyJ@cbsnews.com]
CC: Farhi, Arden [FarhiA@cbsnews.com]
Subject: RE: comment on document?

We do not comment on matters that pertain to EPA's IG. We encourage you to contact them as they are a separate organization outside of EPA. Here is our on-the-record statement: **"We do not comment on matters pertaining to EPA's IG."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

In terms of security questions our statement remains the same which is: **"According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

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From: Alemany, Jacqueline [mailto:AlemanyJ@cbsnews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:25 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Farhi, Arden <FarhiA@cbsnews.com>
Subject: comment on document?

Hi Jahan,

CBS News obtained a document outlining threats made against Administrator Pruitt in an EPA OIG report. Any comment or statement? Feel free to give us a call if you would like more information on the document we have obtained.

Thanks in advance for your time and help,

JACQUELINE ALEMANY | CBS NEWS | WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/12/2018 10:17:23 PM
To: eholden@politico.com

EPA STATEMENT REGARDING THREATS ...

“According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and security decisions are made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

SECURITY DECISIONS ...

“Security decisions are made by EPA’s Protective Service Detail and are similar to security protocol across the federal government.” EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL ...

Referring you to our statement made to CBS News - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scott-pruitt-my-very-next-flight-will-be-coach-epa-administrator-the-takeout-interview/>

SECURITY SWEEPS/LOCK ...

“Similar security sweeps were done for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. We looked at a couple of different vendors and our career administrative officials approved locks that are used for the Inspector General and other offices within EPA.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

G7 MEETINGS IN ITALY ...

“Administrator Pruitt attended numerous G7 meetings with his bilateral counterparts and in terms of security, EPA’s Protective Service Detail tried to replicate the same security measures taken when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy traveled to Italy in 2015.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/20/2018 4:16:55 PM
To: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]; ISwanson@thehill.com; AEisele@thehill.com; DWeaver@thehill.com; BCusack@thehill.com
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: RE: Look for an editor

We would like to speak to an editor.

From: Timothy Cama [mailto:tcama@thehill.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:16 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: ISwanson@thehill.com; AEisele@thehill.com; DWeaver@thehill.com; BCusack@thehill.com
Subject: Re: Look for an editor

Miranda and I are working quickly on this.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer
The Hill

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Secure: timothy.cama@protonmail.com

On Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 12:14 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

I am trying to speak to an editor. Currently, Tim Cama will not share the name or contact of his editor. This story and headline is wrong; the trip was \$45,000. Claiming this cost was \$84,000 is a gross miscalculation.

Cost of Pruitt's Italy trip rises above \$84,000

The Hill

Tim Cama

March 20, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/379295-pruitts-security-detail-cost-30000-for-italy-trip>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head Scott Pruitt spent more than \$30,000 on security related expenses during his travel to Italy last summer, official documents show.

New EPA travel documents show Pruitt's personal security detail racked up \$30,553.80 in travel expenses between June 5 and June 12 of last year. Added to previously-disclosed costs, the documents put the total taxpayer cost of the trip above \$84,000.

During that time period, Pruitt was visiting Italy for meetings at the Vatican and to meet with international energy ministers at a summit. The administrator heavily photographed and tweeted out his time abroad.

Travel vouchers previously obtained by Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) put the cost to taxpayers above \$43,000 for the Italy trip, but did not include costs for his 24-hour security detail.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the cost for Pruitt's security detail followed protocol.

"Administrator Pruitt's security detail followed the same procedures for the G7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson, and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy. EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years," Wilcox said.

Pruitt's own first-class tickets for the trip cost more than \$7,000 and included a return flight on Emirates, an airline that boasts one of the most luxurious first-class services in the world.

An EPA spokesperson previously said the first class travel was approved through a waiver.

EIP first obtained the new travel documents Monday after filing a lawsuit against EPA in September to respond to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Their initial FOIA request, filed in August, requested "records of expenditures for all travel outside of Washington, DC by Administrator Pruitt, as well as any EPA staff that accompanied Administrator Pruitt" on his Italian trip.

"That's a lot of money for Mr. Pruitt to tour the Vatican, pose for photos, and tell his European counterparts that global warming doesn't matter. And it doesn't even include salary costs for everyone who signed up for this tour," said Eric Schaeffer, EIP director and former director of EPA's office of enforcement, in a statement.

The new documents come after significant scrutiny and criticism of Pruitt for his travel costs. EPA's Office of Inspector General has a number of probes into Pruitt's travel, including his use of a round-the-clock security team.

Pruitt is the first EPA administrator to have a 24-hour security detail, a decision he said was made by security officials. The detail cost more than \$830,000 in his first three months in office, E&E News reported.

The administrator has also faced criticism for flying luxury class during business travel. During much of his tenure at the EPA, Pruitt has only flown first or business class, which the agency argued was necessary for security purposes.

"The quantity and type of threats that I face are unprecedented," he said. "They wanted me on a position on the plane to be able to exit expeditiously if an incident arose, and that's why the change arose," Pruitt said of his security detail in an interview last month with CBS News's Major Garrett.

Pruitt has joined numerous Cabinet secretaries in attracting criticism for their use of taxpayer money.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson have each had spending-related controversies, while former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price resigned due to a scandal regarding his use of charter planes.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/20/2018 6:39:44 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]; Feldman, Carole [CFeldman@ap.org]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Bridis, Ted [TBridis@ap.org]
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

I was just trying to be helpful and confirm numbers that are currently being circulated. You can report however you want. Have a good day, Michael.

From: Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:37 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Bridis, Ted <TBridis@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

Jahan,

This doesn't include the cost of \$36,000 for the military jet from Ohio to JFK.

I guess I'm confused what distinction you are trying to draw? Between career EPA staff and political appointees. Are they all not accurately described as "EPA staff"?

Do you expect that with providing the documents to the oversight committee, the records will also be released to the public? As I'm sure you are aware, AP is among those who have pending FOIAs for them.

Also, do you have figures for total travel costs for Pruitt, aides and security for 2018?

Thanks,

Michael

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:26 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

I saw your story. Regarding this line: "The known cost of Pruitt's previously reported trip grew this week after the agency disclosed a highly redacted document showing expenses for Pruitt's security detail cost more than \$30,500. "

On background, here is the information, but we ask that you note this includes EPA career (in bold) and EPA political appointees if you are reporting a grand total.

Traveler

Commercial Airfare

Total Expenses

Pruitt, Scott	\$7,003.32	\$8,997.83
Chmielewski, Kevin	\$1,809.63	\$5,445.37
Dravis, Samantha	\$2,330.98	\$5,704.81
Ferguson, Lincoln	\$1,906.12	\$4,461.08
Finman, Hodayah	\$1,553.16	\$3,421.72
Greenwalt, Sarah	\$1,919.96	\$5,173.92
Gunasekara, Amanda	\$2,046.18	\$4,549.78
Hupp, Millan	\$2,144.57	\$5,988.36
Jackson, Ryan	\$2,438.28	\$4,689.55
Nishida, Jane	\$2,014.64	\$5,201.56
Security Detail	\$30,553.88	\$30,553.88
Grand Total	\$55,720.72	\$84,187.86

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:37 PM
To: 'Biesecker, Michael' <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

The statement is regarding international travel.

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:32 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

Jahan, on this point: "EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years."

Is this accurate? It's been previously reported that neither Jackson nor McCarthy had a full-time security detail and McCarthy was not accompanied by security on weekend trips home to Boston.

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:16 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Security detail costs for Italy

On-the-record statement regarding travel: **"Administrator Pruitt's security detail followed the same procedures for the G7 environmental meeting in Italy that were used during EPA Administrators Stephen Johnson, Lisa Jackson, and Gina McCarthy's trips to Italy. EPA's security procedures have not deviated over the past 14 years."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

On-the-record statement regarding House Oversight: **"We are working with Chairman Gowdy to accommodate his request."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:11 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Security detail costs for Italy

Jahan,

Do you have updated comment on the release of the figure for the cost of the administrator's security detail to go to Italy last year? Also, can you comment on whether the security team flew with him in business class/first class?

I've heard EPA may turn over travel records to House Oversight this week, potentially as soon as today. Can you confirm?

Thanks,

Michael



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions: www.ap.org/tips

AP is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, two thirds of the world's population sees news from AP.

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 1:30:55 AM
To: Philip Wegmann [pwegmann@washingtonexaminer.com]
Subject: Hey

AP has written this story: <https://www.apnews.com/e2fdc3fe88be432792817795a34fda46>

Here is our statement: **“According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

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###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 1:31:27 AM
To: Alemany, Jacqueline [AlemanyJ@cbsnews.com]
Subject: Hey

AP has written this story: <https://www.apnews.com/e2fdc3fe88be432792817795a34fda46>

Here is our statement: **"According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 1:32:52 AM
To: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com; timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com
Subject: Hey

AP has written this story: <https://www.apnews.com/e2fdc3fe88be432792817795a34fda46>

Here is our statement: **“According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 1:33:56 AM
To: Ganim, Sara [Sara.Ganim@turner.com]
Subject: Hey

AP has written this story: <https://www.apnews.com/e2fdc3fe88be432792817795a34fda46>

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###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 6:31:14 PM
To: Alba, Monica (NBCUniversal) [Monica.Alba@nbcuni.com]
Subject: Re: Confirming quotes in AP report?

Have a great day.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2018, at 2:27 PM, Alba, Monica (NBCUniversal) <Monica.Alba@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Thanks very much

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2018 12:04 PM
To: Alba, Monica (NBCUniversal) <Monica.Alba@nbcuni.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Confirming quotes in AP report?

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EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2018, at 11:55 AM, Alba, Monica (NBCUniversal) <Monica.Alba@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Hi there, hoping to confirm these quotes in the AP report and wondering if there's any additional statement or info you can send me on this? Thanks much

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday that Pruitt has faced an "unprecedented" amount of death threats against him and his family.

"Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats," Wilcox said.

<https://apnews.com/b6e7dedc97fe4c8198f3efdc27e28cdf>

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt's concern with his safety came at a steep cost to taxpayers as his swollen security detail blew through overtime budgets and at times diverted officers away from investigating environmental crimes.

Altogether, the agency spent millions of dollars for a 20-member full-time detail that is more than three times the size of his predecessor's part-time security contingent.

New details in Pruitt's expansive spending for security and travel emerged from agency sources and documents reviewed by The Associated Press. They come as the embattled EPA leader fends off allegations of profligate spending and ethical missteps that have imperiled his job.

Shortly after arriving in Washington, Pruitt demoted the career staff member heading his security detail and replaced him with EPA Senior Special Agent Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta, a former Secret Service agent who operates a private security company.

An EPA official with direct knowledge of Pruitt's security spending says Perrotta oversaw a rapid expansion of the EPA chief's security detail to accommodate guarding him day and night, even on family vacations and when Pruitt was home in Oklahoma. The EPA official spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Perrotta also signed off on new procedures that let Pruitt fly first-class on commercial airliners, with the security chief typically sitting next to him with other security staff farther back in the plane. Pruitt's premium status gave him and his security chief access to VIP airport lounges.

The EPA official said there are legitimate concerns about Pruitt's safety, given public opposition to his rollbacks of anti-pollution measures.

But Pruitt's ambitious domestic and international travel led to rapidly escalating costs, with the security detail racking up so much overtime that many hit annual salary caps of about \$160,000. The demands of providing 24-hour coverage even meant taking some investigators away from field work, such as when Pruitt traveled to California for a family vacation.

The EPA official said total security costs approached \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday that Pruitt has faced an "unprecedented" amount of death threats against him and his family.

"Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats," Wilcox said.

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA's press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.

Pruitt has said his use of first-class airfare was initiated following unpleasant interactions with other travelers. In one incident, someone yelled a profanity as he walked through the airport.

The EPA administrator has come under intense scrutiny for ethics issues and outsized spending. Among the concerns: massive raises for two of closest aides and his rental of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a lobbyist who represents fossil fuel clients.

At least three congressional Republicans and a chorus of Democrats have called for Pruitt's ouster. But President Donald Trump is so far standing by him.

A review of Pruitt's ethical conduct by White House officials is underway, adding to probes by congressional oversight committees and EPA's inspector general.

Pruitt, 49, was closely aligned with the oil and gas industry as Oklahoma's state attorney general before being tapped by Trump. Trump has praised Pruitt's relentless efforts to scrap, delay or rewrite Obama-era environmental regulations. He also has championed budget cuts and staff reductions at the agency so deep that even Republican budget hawks in Congress refused to implement them.

EPA's press office has refused to disclose the cost of Pruitt's security or the size of his protective detail, saying doing so could imperil his personal safety.

But other sources within EPA and documents released through public information requests help provide a window into the ballooning costs.

In his first three months in office, before pricey overseas trips to Italy and Morocco, the price tag for Pruitt's security detail hit more than \$832,000, according to EPA documents released through a public information request.

Nearly three dozen EPA security and law enforcement agents were assigned to Pruitt, according to a summary of six weeks of weekly schedules obtained by Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

Those schedules show multiple EPA security agents accompanied Pruitt on a family vacation to California that featured a day at Disneyland and a New Year's Day football game where his home state Oklahoma Sooners were playing in the Rose Bowl. Multiple agents also accompanied Pruitt to a baseball game at the University of Kentucky and at his house outside Tulsa, during which no official EPA events were scheduled.

On weekend trips home for Sooners football games, when taxpayers weren't paying for his ticket, the EPA official said Pruitt flew coach. He sometimes used a companion pass obtained with frequent flyer miles accumulated by Ken Wagner, a former law partner whom Pruitt hired as a senior adviser at EPA at a salary of more than \$172,000. Taxpayers still covered the airfare for the administrator's security detail.

Pruitt's predecessor, Gina McCarthy, had a security detail that numbered about a half dozen, less than a third the size of Pruitt's. She flew coach and was not accompanied by security during her off hours, like on weekend trips home to Boston.

Pruitt was accompanied by nine aides and a security detail during a trip to Italy in June that cost more than \$120,000. He visited the U.S. Embassy in Rome and took a private tour of the Vatican before briefly attending a meeting of G-7 environmental ministers in Bologna.

Private Italian security guards hired by Perrotta helped arrange an expansive motorcade for Pruitt and his entourage, according to the EPA official with direct knowledge of the trip. The source described the Italian additions as personal friends of Perrotta, who joined Pruitt and his EPA staff for an hours-long dinner at an upscale restaurant.

Perrotta's biography, on the website of his company, Sequoia Security Group, says that during his earlier stint with the Secret Service he worked with the Guardia di Finanza, the Italian finance police.

The EPA spent nearly \$9,000 last year on increased counter-surveillance precautions for Pruitt, including hiring a private contractor to sweep his office for hidden listening devices and installing sophisticated biometric locks for the doors. The payment for the bug sweep went to a vice president at Perrotta's security company.

The EPA official who spoke to AP said Perrotta also arranged the installation of a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth for Pruitt's office.

At least five EPA officials were placed on leave, reassigned or demoted after pushing back against spending requests such as a \$100,000-a-month private jet membership, a bulletproof vehicle and \$70,000 for furniture such as a bulletproof desk for the armed security officer always stationed inside the administrator's office suite.

Those purchases were not approved. But Pruitt got an ornate refurbished desk comparable in grandeur to the one in the Oval Office.

Among the officials who faced consequences for resisting such spending was EPA Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Kevin Chmielewski, a former Trump campaign staffer who was placed on unpaid administrative leave this year.

The prior head of Pruitt's security detail, Eric Weese, was demoted last year after he refused Pruitt's demand to use the lights and sirens on his government-owned SUV to get him through Washington traffic to the airport and dinner reservations.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/9/2018 3:25:21 PM
To: Smith, Kevin (Portman) [Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov]
Subject: RE: Here you go

Our ethics official said it was market rate.

From: Smith, Kevin (Portman) [mailto:Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Here you go

What's your pushback on the rental?

From: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:19 AM
To: Smith, Kevin (Portman) <Kevin_Smith@portman.senate.gov>
Subject: Here you go

On-The-Record ... **"According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "'We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,' said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. 'They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. 'Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. "In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." (E&E News, 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,' Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." ([Bloomberg](#), 10/26/17)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/9/2018 3:26:52 PM
To: ConantC@cbsnews.com
Subject: FW: Requests for comment

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 8:36 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Pace, Julie <JPace@ap.org>; Feldman, Carole <CFeldman@ap.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Requests for comment

<https://mobile.twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/982770847046922240>

Have a great night!

On Apr 6, 2018, at 9:25 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

We missed this inquiry. Can you please update your story with our statement:

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From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Requests for comment

Didn't get a response to these questions yesterday. I remain hopeful you will provide on the record comment about the reasons for the administrator's upsized security detail, which has included 20 full-time staff and additional officers that have rotated in from around the country. We are preparing to report on the total cost of the administrator's security precautions.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 1:06 PM
To: 'Bowman, Liz' <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Requests for comment

Thanks for getting back to me Liz.

I also want to confirm something else with you: EPA has said previously on background that Administrator Pruitt's 24-hour security detail and use of premium class airfare were initiated following unprecedented threats to his security, including an incident last March where a person yelled at him in an airport to "Stop f-ing up the environment." Is all that accurate?

Also, without divulging specific details about his security arrangements, can you all provide any more on the nature of the threats against him? Have there been threats of violence? Have any investigations initiated into individuals who made threats against him?

We have searched state and federal court records and cannot find any instances of individuals being charged with communicating threats against Pruitt. Can you point me to any?

Thanks,

Michael

From: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 12:55 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Requests for comment

Hi Michael – Here is our statement on Samantha: "After serving for over a year as EPA's head of policy, Samantha Dravis has decided to pursue other opportunities. She has been integral in the Agency's successful implementation of the President's environmental agenda and the Agency wishes her success in her future endeavors."

I understand that Kevin Minoli has a statement on the new memo, which he can share with you directly.

Thank you,

Liz

From: Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 8:38 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Requests for comment

Jahan, Liz,

Please provide comment on the resignation of Samantha Dravis and Kevin Minoli's letter saying he wasn't given full info Pruitt's living arrangement before issuing the earlier memo you distributed.

Thanks,

Michael

<image001.jpg>

Michael Biesecker
Investigative Reporter
mbiesecker@ap.org
Twitter: @mbieseck
[Public Key](#)

<image002.jpg>

1100 13 St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4076

T 202-641-9445

M Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Have a tip for the Associated Press? We have a secure way to send it to us, anonymously. Follow this link for instructions: www.ap.org/tips

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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe – the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here." – Mark Twain, 1906

"I go with Custer and will be at the death." – AP reporter Mark Kellogg's final dispatch from the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/9/2018 7:47:38 PM
To: Stile, Charles [Stile@northjersey.com]
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: Interview with Christie Todd Whitman earlier today

On-The-Record ... “According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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From: Stile, Charles [mailto:Stile@northjersey.com]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Interview with Christie Todd Whitman earlier today

Jahan,

Former EPA administrator Whitman was sharply critical of Scott Pruitt in an interview with the Bergen (N.J.) Record this morning. Among some of her remarks:

- She called the need for a sound proof booth in his office "absolutely ridiculous" and unnecessary and said the EPA building has a sound proof room for sensitive matters, which they used during the 2001 anthrax crisis.
- She also suggested that Pruitt's travel habits and demands for costly, unprecedented security items was symptomatic of a "extraordinarily ethically tone deaf" administration that does not have people serving as internal watchdogs, drawing the line between appropriate and inappropriate spending.
- She dismissed the need for bullet proof desk or cars as unnecessary and said Pruitt would be the "last person anyone is going to want to take out, frankly."

Wondering if you have any reaction. I'm writing on deadline, 5 p.m. today, Mon. April 9, and will post probably in early evening. I sent this request earlier to press@epa.gov.

Thanks,

Charles Stile
Political Columnist



Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Office: 609-943-4487
cstile@gannett.com
@PoliticalStile

NorthJersey.com

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/9/2018 7:51:12 PM
To: Cheung, Steven EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Subject: FW: Here you go buddy

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Cc: 'Kennedy, Adam R. EOP/WHO' [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Subject: Here you go buddy

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EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/9/2018 8:13:30 PM
To: Cheung, Steven EOP/WHO **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Subject: FW: Hey

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 4:08 PM
To: Ganim, Sara <Sara.Ganim@turner.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hey

“Administrator Pruitt follows the same security protocol whether he’s in his personal or official capacity.” EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

On Apr 7, 2018, at 4:05 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks. One second

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2018, at 4:01 PM, Ganim, Sara <Sara.Ganim@turner.com> wrote:

Checking on this;

On Apr 7, 2018, at 5:17 AM, Ganim, Sara <Sara.Ganim@turner.com> wrote:

Thanks Jahan. Yesterday it was also reported that Pruitt flew coach class when traveling on his own time and money to go home for sporting events. Can you tell us why the determination was made that it was safe to fly coach in those instances?

--

Sara Ganim
CNN Correspondent
New York

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Apr 6, 2018, at 9:34 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

AP has written this story:

<https://www.apnews.com/e2fdc3fe88be432792817795a34fda46>

Here is our statement: **“According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "'We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,' said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. 'They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. 'Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. "In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. 'He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There's absolutely no question about it,' Sullivan said." (E&E News, 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. "The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. 'The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,'" Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

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of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 12:09:51 PM
To: Jennifer A. Dlouhy [jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Subject: RE: Security spending

Alright working on this right now.

From: Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 10:35 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Security spending

Absolutely. I just wanted to make sure you all had it asap, since this is not a brief request. I expect the story to be filed and in edit tomorrow morning, so a response by mid morning would be welcomed. Late morning **should** be fine.

Thank you,
Jen.

—
Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
reporterjen@protonmail.com
Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

From: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov At: 04/09/18 22:30:45
To: [Jennifer A. Dlouhy \(BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: \)](mailto:Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:))
Cc: Press@epa.gov
Subject: Re: Security spending

Can we circle back tomorrow?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2018, at 10:27 PM, Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Good evening!

We are working on a story taking a close look at various security decisions at the EPA over the past year and a half -- and the role that Pasquale 'Nino' Perrotta had in justifying them.

I would appreciate any response/comment/context you may have on the story, ideally by late morning tomorrow.

Our reporting indicates that Mr. Perrotta was a driving force behind many of the decisions, including the shift to first-class travel, the installation of biometric locks and security sweeps of Administrator Pruitt's office.

There is an assertion that Perrotta got the lead job protecting Pruitt after the previous head of his detail questioned some security decisions and was reassigned.

There will likely be an assertion that Perrotta has endorsed many moves to boost security and that he's at the center of these decisions to ramp-up spending on security some critics deride as "ridiculous."

Specifically, we may note that Perrotta played a critical role justifying the decision to shift from door-to-door protection of the administrator to around-the-clock protection, a move that means at least 19 agents are required to guard the administrator day and night though according to six weeks of schedules obtained by Sen. Whitehouse, that number may have climbed as high as 32.

We are likely to note that one of the security decisions -- to sweep the administrator's office for bugs -- enriched a Perrotta partner, Edwin Steinmetz.

There may be an assertion that Perrotta's decisions have elevated his stature at the EPA and he has traveled first class with the administrator.

We may repeat the AP's assertion that Perrotta arranged for private security guards during the trip to Italy who arranged "an expansive motorcade" for Administrator Pruitt.

We may repeat the AP's assertion that total security costs have reached nearly \$3 million, including pay and travel expenses for protective detail.

We also may assert that five EPA officials who questioned the steep ramp-up in security were reassigned or demoted, according to the New York Times, including Eric Weese, the previous head of Pruitt's security team.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy

jdlohy1@bloomberg.net / **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
reporterjen@protonmail.com
Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 1:52:44 PM
To: Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]
Subject: FW: APPROVAL: Security spending

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:44 AM
To: Barnet, Henry <Barnet.Henry@epa.gov>; Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Traylor, Patrick <traylor.patrick@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL: Security spending

Moving this email towards the top of the inbox.

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:37 AM
To: Barnet, Henry <Barnet.Henry@epa.gov>; Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Traylor, Patrick <traylor.patrick@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Kelly, Albert <kelly.albert@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Security spending

Below are draft responses in bold. Every statement – with the exception of the motorcade in Italy – has been approved and already used somewhere. Please feel free to edit or put someone else name behind the statements.

Before we send I will need the approval from: Susan, Henry and RJ. Our deadline is 10:00 AM ET.

Good evening!

We are working on a story taking a close look at various security decisions at the EPA over the past year and a half -- and the role that Pasquale 'Nino' Perrotta had in justifying them.

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Our reporting indicates that Mr. Perrotta was a driving force behind many of the decisions, including the shift to first-class travel, the installation of biometric locks and security sweeps of Administrator Pruitt's office.

- **First-Class Travel:**

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process
- **Security Sweeps:**

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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There is an assertion that Perrotta got the lead job protecting Pruitt after the previous head of his detail questioned some security decisions and was reassigned.

- **Detail:**

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Thanks for your consideration.

Jen.

From: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov At: 04/09/18 22:30:45
To: [Jennifer A. Dlouhy \(BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: \)](#)
Cc: Press@epa.gov
Subject: Re: Security spending

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Sent from my iPhone

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jdrouhy1@bloomberg.net / Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
reporterjen@protonmail.com

Desk: 202.807.2159

Cell/Text/Signal: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Twitter: @jendlouhyhc

Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crvk>

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 2:35:56 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Kelly, Albert [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08576e43795149e5a3f9669726dd044c-Kelly, Albe]; Lyons, Troy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15e4881c95044ab49c6c35a0f5eef67e-Lyons, Troy]
Subject: APPROVAL: security threat - comment request

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy," said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. 'They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you,'" Sullivan told CNN in an interview. 'Then there's implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: 'If you come after me and my family, I'll come after you and your family.'" ([CNN](#), 11/28/17)

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From: Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:32 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: security threat - comment request

Sen. Whitehouse has sent a letter to Barrass - he said he has an EPA Homeland Security intelligence assessment that he says undercuts the October memo of Mr. Pruitt's security detail justifying the need for first-class travel, etc. as security measures. We're doing a story quickly - if you have any immediate comment I will put it in as quickly as possible; we are also writing through the story today.

Best,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 2:49:32 PM
To: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
CC: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Subject: RE: Seeking comment re: security detail

“Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within OECA using information collected from the PSD, EPA’s Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:45 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>

Subject: Seeking comment re: security detail

Hi all,

We are writing on a just-released letter from Sen. Carper and Sen. Whitehouse, questioning the agency's justifications for Administrator Pruitt's 24/7 security. The letter is attached.

For now, we have made sure to include the comments on security needs that Jahan sent over the weekend. But wanted to reach back out for any additional comment.

Thanks,
Brady

The Washington Post

Brady Dennis

National Staff

Health, Science & Environment

Work: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Email: brady.dennis@washpost.com

Twitter: [@brady_dennis](https://twitter.com/brady_dennis)

Stories: <http://wapo.st/2sS5gfK>

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 2:49:56 PM
To: Danylak, Mike (EPW) [Mike_Danylak@epw.senate.gov]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: FW: security threat - comment request

FYI ...

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:49 AM
To: 'Friedman, Lisa' <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>; Press <Press@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: security threat - comment request

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Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. “The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. ‘The quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different,” Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. “What’s really disappointing to me as it’s not just me -- it’s family.” (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

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EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." ([Bloomberg](#), 02/15/18)

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:32 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: security threat - comment request

Sen. Whitehouse has sent a letter to Barrass - he said he has an EPA Homeland Security intelligence assessment that he says undercuts the October memo of Mr. Pruitt's security detail justifying the need for first-class travel, etc. as security measures. We're doing a story quickly - if you have any immediate comment I will put it in as quickly as possible; we are also writing through the story today.

Best,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 2:50:52 PM
To: Ganim, Sara [Sara.Ganim@turner.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: Carper - Whitehouse letter claims security concerns are inflated

“Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and these threat assessments are conducted within OECA using information collected from the PSD, EPA’s Office of Homeland Security, and Inspector General. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

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From: Ganim, Sara [mailto:Sara.Ganim@turner.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:50 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

Subject: Carper - Whitehouse letter claims security concerns are inflated

Hi guys -- Attached is a letter we received from Sens. Carper and Whitehouse, asking questions about Scott Pruitt's security detail based on Secret Service and Homeland Security memos that they obtained from a whistleblower that cast into doubt the scope of the security detail. The letter says that there are **"no specific credible direct threat to the EPA Administrator."**

It also says, EPA Intelligence has "not seen any analysis to indicate why the Administrator would be at any greater risk on a commercial airline than any other passenger, or why a trained EPA PSD member could not protect the Administrator in a different location on the aircraft [than in the business or first-class section].'" Instead, the threats cited include things like, protestors attempting to disrupt a speech given, a postcard sent to the Administrator stating "CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!!! We are watching you," An email stating: "I am considering dumping the old paint I just scraped off of my home outside your office door on Tuesday."

Do you have a comment on this letter? Thanks.

Sara

--

Sara Ganim

CNN Washington

954-663-2523

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/10/2018 3:09:40 PM
To: Danylak, Mike (EPW) [Mike_Danylak@epw.senate.gov]
Subject: FW: Response to Carper and Whitehouse
Attachments: 2018 04 10 Barrasso_Pruitt threat assessment.pdf

See attachment

From: Kevin Bogardus [mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:07 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Response to Carper and Whitehouse

Thanks Jahan. Big help. And nice to see E&E News in the background material! I will use your response in a story I'm doing on the attached letter. Thanks again!

-Kevin

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:55 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Subject: Response to Carper and Whitehouse

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/5/2018 10:39:12 PM
To: Stephen.miller[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]; robert.gabriel[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Subject: Pruitt Coverage ...
Attachments: Pruitt coverage highlights updated.docx

Stephen -

Wanted to flag the coverage today for Scott Pruitt. Thought this might be helpful for POTUS to see.

April 5th

Rush Limbaugh (from Transcript at the top of the show): Speaking of under attack, have you noticed how every political gun the Democrats and the media have is all of a sudden focused on Scott Pruitt at the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency? You know, there's an old saying — and you military people will, of course, nod your heads at this. "When you're taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target." Well, I think Scott Pruitt is over the target. Let me tell you what Scott Pruitt's doing. Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama's EPA implemented.

Now, the former administrator of the EPA, Gina somebody — can't remember her last name — Obama put her in office, and she is out there complaining about Pruitt because Pruitt is specifically unraveling things that she and she alone did. And she's complaining that administrators and bureaucrats can't just go in willy-nilly and strike out things they don't like. It's exactly what she did though.

When she was chairman of the EPA she started writing regulations left and right without even the agreement of the whole agency. Not that she needed it, 'cause they were all like-minded leftists. But none of it had to go through Congress. None of it passed as legislation must. And so now Scott Pruitt, they're focusing on this guy, condos that he wants to buy, furniture he wanted to rent, how he travels privately, running around on jets. They are launching everything they've got at this guy.

The EPA is one of these federal bureaucracies that the left claims permanent ownership of. And these bureaucracies — they happen to be where the deep state — I love that term primary because the left hates it — but the bureaucracies are where the deep state lives. And these people have been writing punitive anti-capital, anti-liberty regulations for who knows how long, all predicated on a bunch of faulty premises, such as the United States is destroying the planet, such as the United States is destroying the world, such as the United States is the leading polluter of the world.

None of these things are true, of course, but that's their worldview. And one thing that Pruitt's doing that's got them just hog-tied, he's relaxing all of these mileage restrictions that the left has placed on automobiles and engines and so forth. And he's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama.

And he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the American left. Let's go to the audio sound bites...

Let me ask a question. You know, they're going after Pruitt, how come Strzok and Lisa Page haven't been canned? How come they are still getting every benefit, every perk and their salaries even though they've been demoted and reassigned, why are they still even working there? See, this is how we lose focus of this stuff.

Oh, so now all of a sudden we're gonna be concerned with how much money federal employees get? I thought we didn't want to do government shutdowns because federal employees would miss Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and it just wouldn't be fair. Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they happened.

Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they had happened. But this has nothing to do with what Pruitt is doing that has them all ticked off. So they're going for these, you know, little knickyknack things here that — do you think people even kept track of what federal employees were making during the Obama administration, and if somebody had gotten a raise would anybody have been upset about it? No, because federal government employees were constantly being applauded and supported and so forth.

But this is just a good illustration of they can't — didn't even go after Pruitt on the substance of what he's doing other than to say he can't do it. But all he's doing is utilizing the same, what do you call it, procedures, that Obama's EPA director did, and it's funny to listen to her and read her being all just jacked up about this claiming, "You can't go in and do this willy-nilly and arbitrarily," which is exactly what she herself did. ...

I really hope this guy does not get sidetracked. You know, it's tough to hold up under this kind of assault. And now this is coming. That's Fox News. That's Ed Henry. And you just hope that he can hang on. You don't know until you see these people under fire and man is he under fire. He's under fire for excessive luxurious travel arrangements and accommodations.

Of course, they don't tell you about the exorbitant luxurious expenditures in the EPA under Obama and his administrator Gina McCarthy. In 2016, for example, Gina McCarthy spent 68 grand going to Ghana, 45 grand going to Peru, \$74,000 on a trip to Tokyo. In 2015, \$41,000 traveling to Paris, \$90,000 going to Dubai, \$67,000 to Tokyo again, \$56,000 to Italy. And of course Lisa Jackson, who was the EPA director for Obama before Gina McCarthy, who's now the environmental vice president at Apple, she was just as over the top in her expenditures.

So Pruitt's not doing anything that hasn't been done. I'm not saying that's an excuse to continue it. I'm saying this is a bogus series of charges. He's being singled out for doing something that has always been done because that's how they view the best way to go get the guy and discredit him, rather than to try to frighten people about what he's doing with the regulatory side of things. Let me take a brief time-out. I just hope Scott Pruitt hangs in, bottom line.

OP-EDS

CNN (Scott Jennings): Liberals Don't Really Care About Pruitt's Ethics. What lurks beneath, though, is not a concern for ethics or thrifty travel budgets (they might want to check EPA directors under Obama before they tee off on travel), but rather adherence to liberal environmental policy that borders on religious conviction. Many on the left love government regulations and hate anyone who tears them down, as Pruitt has successfully done at EPA. Having failed to incite a national panic last week over the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the Trump haters have moved on this week to destroying Pruitt. There's a good chance they will fail at this, too. Why? Losing Pruitt would rob the Trump administration of an effective operator who has done more than most to make good on the President's campaign promises. Pruitt has been effective. Unlike David Shulkin, who was recently jettisoned from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pruitt has actually enacted President Trump's agenda. He's a recognized conservative warrior, with the Washington Post reporting that "allies praise Pruitt for returning more power to individual states while scaling back what they see as the previous administration's regulatory excesses." Pruitt might be the most successful Trump cabinet member, delivering win after win to President Trump. ... Pruitt is becoming a martyr. The people at the controls of the liberal outrage machine don't care about rent; they are just hopping mad that he's dismantling Obama's anti-business regulatory regime. As my friend Josh Holmes, a former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, tweeted: "Ironically, the media blood-lusting for Scott Pruitt is insulating him a bit by gradually turning him into a

conservative cause. Going to be tougher than they think to run him out over cheap rent." The louder the extreme left screams, the more Trump will consider it music to his ears.

Business Insider (Andy Surabian): Scott Pruitt's real sin is that he's a total killer for Trump's agenda — and it's why the media is trying to destroy him. Pruitt's biggest problem is not his alleged misdeeds. It's his effectiveness and determination at rolling back the job-killing, regulatory bonanza of the Obama years. The liberal media is now intentionally training its ire on Pruitt, because unlike some of the president's former Cabinet officials who have recently been forced out, Pruitt is actually effectively prosecuting the president's "America First" agenda. When it comes to economy-strangling regulations, Pruitt is, as President Donald Trump likes to say, "a total killer." He has no peer in Trump's Cabinet in terms of his ability to cut back red tape. From day one, he began dismantling Barack Obama's legacy with startling effectiveness and cunning. And for this, radical environmentalists and other left-wingers despise him. In Trump's efforts to roll back regulations, "Pruitt has proved to be one of his most effective lieutenants," The New York Times wrote. Pruitt has initiated rollbacks of more than two-dozen unnecessary and economy-strangling environmental regulations. ... But that's not the point of this exercise for the media: To destroy Scott Pruitt. They can't allow him to roll back Obama's entire left-wing legacy at the EPA without putting up a fight. Pruitt, like Trump, Clarence Thomas, and countless others before him, represents an ideological threat to the institutional left and their allies in the mainstream media. To the Fake News Industrial Complex, that justifies trumping up baseless allegations in an attempt to take him out. They're doing everything they can to force the President's hand to get rid of Pruitt, because they know just how effective he is in his role. Pruitt has served his boss well — just a little too well for his liberal critics. And it's for that very reason why he's worth defending and keeping atop the EPA, so he can continue to be a total anti-regulatory killer, for years to come.

The Hill: (Jenny Beth Martin) Scott Pruitt Does His Part to Help Donald Trump Drain the Swamp. "And among members of the White House Cabinet, no agency head has done more to follow the president's lead in draining the swamp than Scott Pruitt, who leads the Environmental Protection Agency. Make no mistake, that's why the left and its allies in the media are working overtime to smear him. They know he's being effective — perhaps the most effective member of Trump's Cabinet when it comes to actually translating rhetoric into reality — and they know they cannot stop him, so in typical swamp fashion, they are intent on destroying him. ... At the EPA, one of the very worst of the alphabet soup bureaucratic fiefdoms that make up the swamp, Pruitt took charge and immediately focused on returning the agency to its stated goals of improving air quality, shoring up our water infrastructure, and cleaning up contaminated areas. This was a huge change after the Obama administration, which used the EPA to issue volumes of job-killing regulations to mollify environmental extremists. Among its most egregious efforts, it utilized "sue and settle" practices to abuse legal limits on rulemaking and reward ideological allies. In his first year in charge of the EPA, Pruitt finalized more than 20 deregulatory actions, saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion in regulatory costs. He also ended the "sue and settle" practices. The agency is rescinding and replacing the ridiculous and onerous "Waters of the United States" rule, and acting on President Trump's order to review and overturn the Obama administration's so-called "Clean Power Plan." Delivering these results has put a "yuge" target on Pruitt's back. ... In spite of his coming under attack from the radical left and their allies in the liberal media, Pruitt is making real progress for the American people at an agency that the left believes it alone should run and control. President Trump unified a governing coalition behind the promise of draining the swamp in Washington, and of all his Cabinet members, Scott Pruitt has done the most to help him advance the cause." — Jenny Beth Martin (Chairman of Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund)

Fox News (Steve Milloy): Trump And The US Need Scott Pruitt To Stay At EPA

"I do," President Trump said Thursday afternoon when asked by reporters whether he still has confidence in embattled Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt. And well the president should. Pruitt has been the most effective appointee in implementing the Trump agenda. If Pruitt is forced out of his job because of charges he behaved unethically, America will suffer. President Trump was elected as the economy was being choked and jobs were being destroyed by record-breaking, excessive and counterproductive regulations issued by the Obama administration. The regulatory agency leading the charge against a healthy American economy and American job creation was the EPA. Candidate Trump knew this and campaigned on it. Millions of Americans voted for Trump precisely because he came out strongly against regulatory overreach. When elected, the new president wisely tapped then-Oklahoma Attorney General Pruitt to bring EPA back with the bounds of the law and to end the EPA's gross overregulation. Pruitt knew well EPA's proclivity toward rogue behavior. He had been involved in some dozen lawsuits against the agency. EPA Administrator

Pruitt was specifically directed via presidential executive order to roll back the two most excessive overreaches of the Obama EPA – the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States rule. The Obama war on coal and coal miners, capped off by the Clean Power Plan, has destroyed 94 percent of the market value of the U.S. coal industry and killed thousands of coal miner jobs – all for no environmental or public health gain. The Obama Waters of the United States rule would have given EPA essentially arbitrary control over every square inch of land in the United States. The Obama EPA had set itself up to deem any mud puddle as a “navigable waterway” subject to onerous, development-stopping regulation. Both rules are now going through the lengthy process of review and repeal that Pruitt is overseeing while being savagely attacked by overregulation-loving environmental extremists. Industries long aggrieved by the pre-Trump EPA, especially during the Obama years, now have an EPA administrator eager to listen to their side of the story. Take the example of the glider truck industry, an \$800 million business that rebuilds old truck engines and drive trains for installation in new truck chassis. On its way out the door, the Obama EPA issued rules to that would outright kill the entire glider truck industry by arbitrarily reclassifying these rebuilt trucks as new trucks, thereby ensnaring them in industry-killing new truck emissions standards. The final Pruitt-led reversal of this job-killing Obama rule is expected anytime now. Our economy is once again beginning to roar – so much so that there are labor shortages in many industries. Much of the credit goes to Pruitt for implementing the Trump agenda and otherwise reining in the previously out-of-control EPA. A key reform being implemented by Pruitt that is driving the far-left greens nuts is his effort to stop EPA’s abuse of science. The House of Representatives has repeatedly passed legislation to end some of EPA’s most egregious science hijinks. One bill would end the practice of EPA grantees (who receive hundreds of millions of dollars in grants) serving on EPA science review panels so that they can rubberstamp their own work. Another bill would end the EPA practice of using “secret science” as a basis for regulation. This “secret science” is data that the EPA under past presidents repeatedly refused to provide to Congress and the public for the purposes of independent review. The Obama EPA even defied a congressional subpoena for the data. Both bills have been stuck in the Senate during the past three sessions because of the filibuster rules that let a minority of senators block action. But Scott Pruitt rode to the rescue. Last fall, Pruitt announced that EPA grantees would no longer be allowed to serve on advisory boards. They can pick one or the other – be a grant recipients or an adviser – but the clear conflict in filling both roles will no longer be permitted. Then just last week, Pruitt announced that EPA would no longer rely on “secret science” in issuing regulations. It would, of course, be better if the Senate passed the House bills and sent them to President Trump to sign. But until that can happen, Pruitt has taken the reins and implemented the policies on his own. Bravo. Pruitt has also taken a keen interest in getting so-called toxic waste sites – known as Superfund sites – cleaned up. These cleanups suffered from years of neglect by the Obama administration, which had thrown all its attention and resources into global warming hysteria and destroying the coal industry. There is much more EPA reform to come from Pruitt, as he is just hitting his stride. Now is not the time to change horses. First, President Trump would have a hard time finding an EPA chief as competent and committed as Pruitt. Next, even if the president did, Senate Democrats would go all out to block confirmation. President Trump should ignore the partisan attacks over trivialities. Let’s keep our eyes on the ball of EPA reform and restraint. Our national interest demands it. Just let Pruitt do it.

FAVORABLE BLOG/NEWS STORIES

Washington Examiner: **Rush Limbaugh, Ted Cruz back Scott Pruitt, ‘Single Biggest Target of Left.’** Conservatives, led by top talker Rush Limbaugh and Sen. Ted Cruz, went on offense Thursday for embattled EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, charging that he is being targeted by liberals because he is pulling back the overreach of Obama-era environmental rules. “You know there’s an old saying,” said Limbaugh, opening his daily three hour show. “When you’re taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target. Well I think Scott Pruitt is over the target,” he said. “He’s basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama and he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the left,” added Limbaugh. Limbaugh’s support was full throated. He said that the liberal “deep state” was leading the attack. “Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama’s EPA implemented,” said the top conservative radio host. Other conservatives, notably Tea Party Patriots head Jenny Beth Martin, and several major groups, including Heritage Action, the Club for Growth, and Americans for Prosperity have also backed Pruitt this week, especially after he stalled the Obama plan to dramatically raise car gas mileage.

Red State: **Ted Cruz And Rand Paul Give Their Support To EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** Yesterday, I posted about the ongoing attempt by the left and by assorted Trump haters, some who are billed as conservatives, to take down EPA administrator Scott Pruitt by a series of contrived “ethics” violations. The strategy is to create a storm of what are

basically nothingburger instances and then roll the whole bundle into a “ethics nightmare” on the part of Pruitt. Today two conservative stalwarts entered the scrum on behalf of Pruitt...Brandon Morse
I just hope President Trump and his inner circle have the courage to stand-by Pruitt and help him ride this nonsense out because he has been one of the superstars of the administration.

Breitbart: Limbaugh: Attacks on EPA’s Pruitt ‘A Bogus Series of Charges.’ Thursday on his nationally syndicated radio show, conservative talker Rush Limbaugh questioned the motives of the criticisms aimed at EPA Director Scott Pruitt. Limbaugh explained how Pruitt’s alleged indiscretions were nothing out of the ordinary and that this appeared to be motivated by those opposed to his rollback of Obama-era environmental regulations.

Daily Caller: Pruitt Allies Warn Trump – Fire Him and Your Agenda Comes to a Grinding Halt. Allies of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt have a stark message for President Donald Trump: Remove Pruitt and your agenda will come to a grinding halt, emboldening your opponents. But conservatives are rallying to Pruitt’s defense, pointing out that, should he leave EPA, Trump’s deregulatory agenda would grind to a halt — playing into the hands of anti-Trumpers. “That is really what would happen if Pruitt was asked to leave,” Tom Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. Pyle headed Trump’s Energy Department transition team in 2016. “It would take months for the Senate to confirm somebody, and whoever they confirm would be more like Christine Todd Whitman than Pruitt,” said Pyle, referring to the former New Jersey governor and EPA chief under President George W. Bush. “It’d be like removing your star wide receiver in the middle of the game. It would slow down the process and make it harder for the administration to achieve their objectives,” Pyle said. Pruitt has aggressively rolled back Obama administration EPA regulations, including the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. rule. EPA’s year-in-review report claimed up to \$1 billion in regulations were repealed in Pruitt’s first year. Conservative pundits also came to Pruitt’s defense, pointing out the administrator’s success in rolling back regulations and reforming EPA science policies make him a prime target for Democrats.

Daily Caller: Rush Limbaugh Throws Full Support Behind EPA’s Pruitt: ‘The Single Biggest Target Of The American Left’ Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh went after “Democrats and the media” for trying to get Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt fired. Limbaugh claimed the left was going after Pruitt for “little knickyknack things” to halt the rollback of energy and environment regulations “And one thing that Pruitt’s doing that’s got them just hog-tied, he’s relaxing all of these mileage restrictions that the left has placed on automobiles and engines and so forth,” Rush said during his daily radio program on Thursday. “And he’s basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama.” “And he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the American left,” Rush said. Pruitt has come under fire for flying first-class, renting a room in a condo co-owned by an energy lobbyist’s wife and circumventing the White House on pay raises for two staffers. The stories have only amplified Democratic and environmentalist calls for his resignation. When asked by reporters if he still had confidence in Pruitt, President Donald Trump said “I do,” but reports suggest White House staffers are unhappy with the former Oklahoma attorney general’s ethics controversies and decision to speak about the matter on Fox News. Republican lawmakers and conservative allies have come to Pruitt’s defense, arguing that Trump’s deregulatory agenda would be stopped in its tracks if the administrator were forced to step down. Limbaugh echoed arguments made by conservative pundits that the anger around Pruitt’s travel and living arrangements were a distraction from his accomplishing Trump’s agenda. “You know, they’re going after Pruitt, how come Strzok and Lisa Page haven’t been canned?” Rush asked. “How come they are still getting every benefit, every perk and their salaries even though they’ve been demoted and reassigned, why are they still even working there? See, this is how we lose focus of this stuff.” “But this has nothing to do with what Pruitt is doing that has them all ticked off,” Rush said. “He’s being singled out for doing something that has always been done because that’s how they view the best way to go get the guy and discredit him, rather than to try to frighten people about what he’s doing with the regulatory side of things,” Rush said. “I just hope Scott Pruitt hangs in, bottom line,” Rush said.

Breitbart: Rand Paul: ‘Scott Pruitt is Likely the Bravest and Most Conservative Member of Trump’s Cabinet’ Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) backed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt in a tweet on Thursday, calling Pruitt “likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump’s cabinet.” Sen. Paul tweeted on Thursday morning, “Scott Pruitt is likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump’s cabinet. We need him to help Donald Trump drain the regulatory swamp.” Several leftist reporters, outlets, pundits, and politicians came out recently

to attack Pruitt and subsequently call for him to drop out. CNN, the Washington Post, and other outlets have attacked Pruitt for renting out a condominium owned by lobbyists. Pruitt leased a room for roughly \$50 a night, paying a total of \$6,100. Jahan Wilcox, an agency spokesman, retorted, "As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt's housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations." Kevin Minoli, the principal deputy general counsel for the EPA, released a memorandum on Thursday detailing how Pruitt's rental of a condo did not amount to an unethical gift. Minoli charged in a statement on Thursday: Today's memorandum shares the factual analysis done by the career ethics officials and how that analysis supports the conclusion reached in the March 30th Memorandum that the lease did not constitute a prohibited gift. In reaffirming the original decision, the Memorandum also responds to the misunderstanding or mischaracterization of the March 30 memo by explaining what the conclusion covers and what was beyond its scope. Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign chairman John Podesta called for Pruitt to resign in an op-ed last week in the Washington Post. The Washington Post editorial board called for Pruitt to resign on Monday. The Natural Resources Defense Council, a leftist environmental group, called for Pruitt to step aside last week, arguing that Pruitt a "threat to the environment and our health." Andy Surabian, a Republican strategist and a former White House special assistant, argued in an op-ed that the reason the media wants Pruitt's scalp is mostly due to the EPA chief's leadership in carrying out President Donald Trump's America First agenda. Surabian charged: When it comes to economy-strangling regulations, Pruitt is, as President Donald Trump likes to say, "a total killer." He has no peer in Trump's Cabinet in terms of his ability to cut back red tape. From day one, he began dismantling Barack Obama's legacy with startling effectiveness and cunning. And for this, radical environmentalists and other left-wingers despise him. Breitbart News' James Delingpole argued Pruitt continues to suffer the left's media onslaught because he has served as "the most effective player in Trump's administration." Delingpole contends: Pruitt is paying a terrible price for the crime of being the most effective player in Trump's administration. And, of course, for daring to take on the most powerful vested interest in the swamp – the Green Blob, aka the Climate Industrial Complex. The Green Blob by no means comprises merely Democrats. Delingpole added, "The knives are out for Pruitt because he has done such a devastatingly effective job." The New York Times even noted that "Pruitt has proved to be one of his most effective lieutenants."

The Federalist: Media Goes Nuts Over Pruitt's Travel Costs, Fails To Notice His Predecessors Spent Much More

In a series of tweets, Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberly Strassel explained why the media freakout over Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's travel expenses is a bunch of hooey. In the past week, multiple media outlets have published pieces freaking out over Pruitt's travel expenses after it was discovered the EPA administrator flew first class on the taxpayer's dime as a security precaution after he received multiple death threats. In a column for The Washington Post, Hillary Clinton's longtime lackey John Podesta wrote that "Scott Pruitt Needs To Go." "Pruitt was forced to release documents indicating that he spent more than \$105,000 on first-class flights in his first year at the EPA alone," Podesta writes. "The Post recently reported that one week's worth of travel in June 2017 by Pruitt and his staff cost about \$120,000, which the EPA inspector general is investigating." As The Federalist's Mollie Hemingway explained in a column yesterday, the media-invented scandal surrounding Pruitt's travel expenses is largely manufactured garbage. You can read that in full here. In a series of tweets, Strassel also explained that the travel costs of Pruitt and his staff are not unprecedented and that previous EPA heads actually spent more. She also reiterated the statement from EPA ethics official Kevin Minoli dated March 30, which said Pruitt didn't violate any laws or ethics rules when he stayed at a condo owned by environmental lobbyists.

NOTABLE POSTS OF SUPPORT

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)



Senator Rand Paul ● @RandPaul · 16m

Ⓙ@EPAScottPruitt is likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump's cabinet. We need him to help @realDonaldTrump drain the regulatory swamp.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)



Ted Cruz @tedcruz · Dec

This is compelling. Why do Obama and his media cronies want so badly to drive @EPAScottPruitt out of office? @realDonaldTrump is too cagey to be duped and bullied by the Obama groupies.



Media Campaign Against EPA's Scott Pruitt Orchestrated By Obama ...

It's been obvious for some time that there is a concerted effort underway to take out Donald Trump's EPA Director, Scott Pruitt.

rolling.com

Rick Santorum on CNN New Day: "I'm comfortable with the job he's doing. I think he's doing a great job as EPA Administrator. He's basically stopped all of the tremendous overreach that the Obama administration put in place. .. Scott Pruitt has been under enormous threats. He's been under more threats than any other person in the administration other than the President himself. There are security concerns ... it's a reaction to the fact that this man is doing a job that's controversial but he's doing a great job and getting a lot of flack for it."



Charlie Kirk



Charlie Kirk ●

@charliekirk11

Follow



Obama's cabinet ran amok with waste, abuse of power, and cronyism

The media is targeting Scott Pruitt because he is EFFECTIVELY reforming the Employment Prevention Agency (EPA)

He absolutely should not resign

You cannot give the left an inch, they will take a mile!

4:19 PM - 5 Apr 2018

Steve Forbes



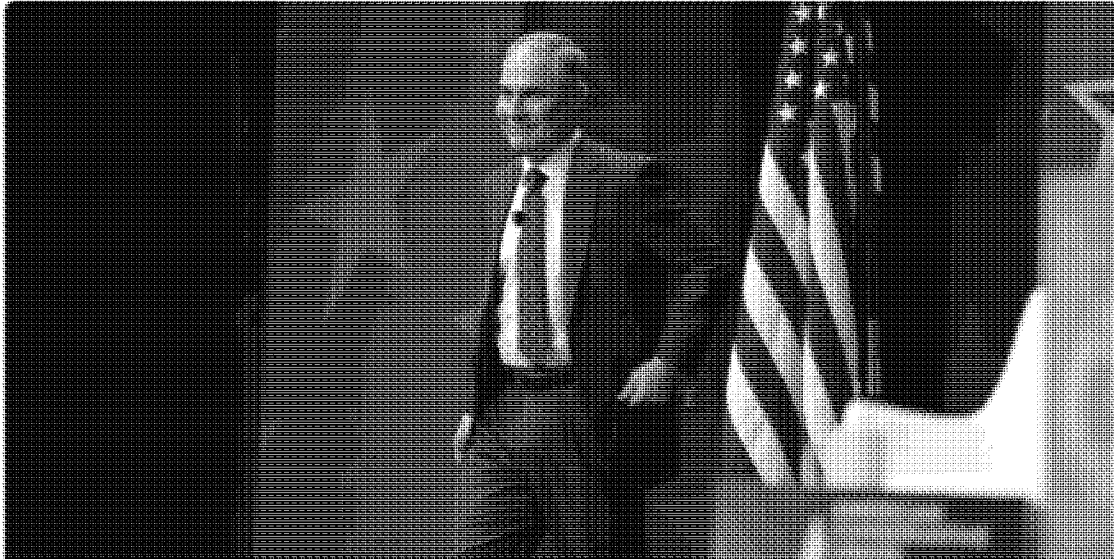
Steve Forbes

@SteveForbesCEO

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Scott Pruitt is effective, but liberals want him gone



Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.

thefederalist.com

4:25 PM - 5 Apr 2018

Larry Elder



Larry Elder

@larryelder

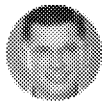
Follow



If EPA's #ScottPruitt goes, what are the odds that the Senate will confirm a replacement who is equally adamant about getting rid of counterproductive job killing regulations? ZERO!

4:00 PM - 5 Apr 2018

Rob Bluey (Heritage Foundation)



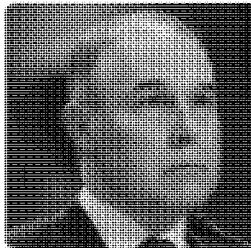
Rob Bluey

@RobertBluey

Follow



No agency has done more to follow the president's lead in draining the swamp than @EPAScottPruitt. That's why the left is smearing him. [thehill.com/opinion/white- ...](http://thehill.com/opinion/white-...)
via @jennybethm



Scott Pruitt does his part to help Donald Trump drain the s...

No agency head has done more to cut bureaucracy and end regulations that harm Americans.

thehill.com

11:45 AM - 5 Apr 2018

Kathleen Sgamma (President Western Energy Alliance)



Kathleen Sgamma @KathleenSgamma · 9m



.@EPAScottPruitt's biggest sin? Being effective at rolling back unlawful Obama #RegulatoryOverreach. How dare he return the rule of law & focus resources on water quality & cleaning up #GoldKing!



Scott Pruitt is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.

thefederalist.com

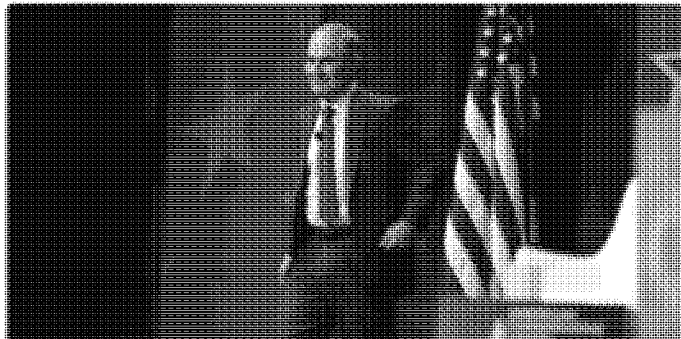
Tea Party Patriots



Tea Party Patriots
@TPPatriots

Follow

The left is targeting one of @POTUS top assets in implementing his agenda
thefederalist.com/2018/04/04/sco... #EPA
@EPAScottPruitt #TeaParty



Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset, So The Left Wants Him Gone

The media's biggest target after Trump is Scott Pruitt, the president's most effective cabinet secretary. Ousting him would be a huge victory.

thefederalist.com

1:58 PM - 3 Apr 2018

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/5/2018 10:51:24 PM
To: Puko, Tim [tim.puko@wsj.com]
Subject: Hey

Here is what we sent the New York Times. You can use anything below as on-the-record.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/05/business/epa-officials-questioned-scott-pruitt.html>

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:02 PM
To: Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lisa –

The below statements can be attributed to Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman.

“We dispute the veracity of the accusations.”

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

“This is not news. EPA’s chief financial officer regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.”

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“The Administrator never considered the proposal.”

ON BACKGROUND: OARM was asked to locate a desk for the Administrator’s office since it did not have a desk. In place of a desk, the office had a long table. OARM acquired the desk from the GSA surplus warehouse. The warehouse contained many desks, all were in need of some type of repair. We selected a desk at no cost and proceeded to have the desk repaired/refurbished for use in the Administrator’s office or another office should a need arise. We also worked with OGC to ensure that the cost of the refurbishment could be charged to OARM.

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"The suggestion that Administrator Pruitt directs the abuse of emergency lights is ridiculous. The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion. i.e. to avoid possible compromise of the vehicle in a flow of traffic."

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class

See response below.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

EPA's assistant inspector general told CNN the following: 'We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. McCarthy. They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you.'

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"Administrator Pruitt never asked for a sound proof booth. He asked for a secure phone line. Any discussion about a sound proof booth took place amongst staffers who oversaw the project. They are no longer with the Administrator's Office."

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

"The premise in the question that these people were moved or released for the reasons stated are incorrect."

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Under his leadership, EPA has saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars and rolled back more than 22 regulations. He is advancing the President's agenda on a daily basis.

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections--Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese--were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

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++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/5/2018 10:51:45 PM
To: Jackson, Hallie (NBCUniversal) [Hallie.Jackson@nbcuni.com]
Subject: Hey

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Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Message

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Sent: 4/5/2018 10:52:44 PM
To: smoran@breitbart.com; pstarr@breitbart.com
Subject: Hey

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Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Sent: 4/5/2018 10:52:58 PM
To: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Subject: Hey

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Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

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Sent: 4/5/2018 10:53:31 PM
To: Elizabeth Harrington [elizabeth@freebeacon.com]
Subject: RE: Hey

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Under his leadership, EPA has saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars and rolled back more than 22 regulations. He is advancing the President’s agenda on a daily basis.

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

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The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections—Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese—were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin’s case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt’s office suite, including both the administrator’s personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

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Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

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Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy cell

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/5/2018 10:53:50 PM
To: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Subject: RE: Hey

“This is a group of disgruntled employees who have either been dismissed or reassigned.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“EPA Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson, is committed to advancing President Trump’s agenda of regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship and continues to do so under Administrator Pruitt’s leadership.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 6:53 PM
To: 'Michael Bastasch' <mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org>
Subject: Hey

Here is what we sent the New York Times. You can use anything below as on-the-record.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/05/business/epa-officials-questioned-scott-pruitt.html>

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:02 PM
To: Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lisa –

The below statements can be attributed to Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman.

“We dispute the veracity of the accusations.”

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

“This is not news. EPA’s chief financial officer regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.”

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craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

“The Administrator never considered the proposal.”

ON BACKGROUND: OARM was asked to locate a desk for the Administrator’s office since it did not have a desk. In place of a desk, the office had a long table. OARM acquired the desk from the GSA surplus warehouse. The warehouse contained many desks, all were in need of some type of repair. We selected a desk at no cost and proceeded to have the desk repaired/refurbished for use in the Administrator’s office or another office should a need arise. We also worked with OGC to ensure that the cost of the refurbishment could be charged to OARM.

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“The suggestion that Administrator Pruitt directs the abuse of emergency lights is ridiculous. The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion. i.e. to avoid possible compromise of the vehicle in a flow of traffic.”

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Sent: 4/5/2018 11:27:58 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Something to share with surrogates
Attachments: Pruitt coverage highlights updated.docx; ATT00001.htm

April 5th

Rush Limbaugh (from Transcript at the top of the show): Speaking of under attack, have you noticed how every political gun the Democrats and the media have is all of a sudden focused on Scott Pruitt at the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency? You know, there's an old saying — and you military people will, of course, nod your heads at this. “When you're taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target.” Well, I think Scott Pruitt is over the target. Let me tell you what Scott Pruitt's doing. Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama's EPA implemented.

Now, the former administrator of the EPA, Gina somebody — can't remember her last name — Obama put her in office, and she is out there complaining about Pruitt because Pruitt is specifically unraveling things that she and she alone did. And she's complaining that administrators and bureaucrats can't just go in willy-nilly and strike out things they don't like. It's exactly what she did though.

When she was chairman of the EPA she started writing regulations left and right without even the agreement of the whole agency. Not that she needed it, 'cause they were all like-minded leftists. But none of it had to go through Congress. None of it passed as legislation must. And so now Scott Pruitt, they're focusing on this guy, condos that he wants to buy, furniture he wanted to rent, how he travels privately, running around on jets. They are launching everything they've got at this guy.

The EPA is one of these federal bureaucracies that the left claims permanent ownership of. And these bureaucracies — they happen to be where the deep state — I love that term primary because the left hates it — but the bureaucracies are where the deep state lives. And these people have been writing punitive anti-capital, anti-liberty regulations for who knows how long, all predicated on a bunch of faulty premises, such as the United States is destroying the planet, such as the United States is destroying the world, such as the United States is the leading polluter of the world.

None of these things are true, of course, but that's their worldview. And one thing that Pruitt's doing that's got them just hog-tied, he's relaxing all of these mileage restrictions that the left has placed on automobiles and engines and so forth. And he's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama.

And he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the American left. Let's go to the audio sound bites...

Let me ask a question. You know, they're going after Pruitt, how come Strzok and Lisa Page haven't been canned? How come they are still getting every benefit, every perk and their salaries even though they've been demoted and reassigned, why are they still even working there? See, this is how we lose focus of this stuff.

Oh, so now all of a sudden we're gonna be concerned with how much money federal employees get? I thought we didn't want to do government shutdowns because federal employees would miss Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and it just wouldn't be fair. Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they happened.

Anyway, Pruitt is claiming he reversed these excessive pay raises when he found out they had happened. But this has nothing to do with what Pruitt is doing that has them all ticked off. So they're going for these, you know, little knickyknack things here that — do you think people even kept track of what federal employees were making during the Obama administration, and if somebody had gotten a raise would anybody have been upset about it? No, because federal government employees were constantly being applauded and supported and so forth.

But this is just a good illustration of they can't — didn't even go after Pruitt on the substance of what he's doing other than to say he can't do it. But all he's doing is utilizing the same, what do you call it, procedures, that Obama's EPA director did, and it's funny to listen to her and read her being all just jacked up about this claiming, "You can't go in and do this willy-nilly and arbitrarily," which is exactly what she herself did. ...

I really hope this guy does not get sidetracked. You know, it's tough to hold up under this kind of assault. And now this is coming. That's Fox News. That's Ed Henry. And you just hope that he can hang on. You don't know until you see these people under fire and man is he under fire. He's under fire for excessive luxurious travel arrangements and accommodations.

Of course, they don't tell you about the exorbitant luxurious expenditures in the EPA under Obama and his administrator Gina McCarthy. In 2016, for example, Gina McCarthy spent 68 grand going to Ghana, 45 grand going to Peru, \$74,000 on a trip to Tokyo. In 2015, \$41,000 traveling to Paris, \$90,000 going to Dubai, \$67,000 to Tokyo again, \$56,000 to Italy. And of course Lisa Jackson, who was the EPA director for Obama before Gina McCarthy, who's now the environmental vice president at Apple, she was just as over the top in her expenditures.

So Pruitt's not doing anything that hasn't been done. I'm not saying that's an excuse to continue it. I'm saying this is a bogus series of charges. He's being singled out for doing something that has always been done because that's how they view the best way to go get the guy and discredit him, rather than to try to frighten people about what he's doing with the regulatory side of things. Let me take a brief time-out. I just hope Scott Pruitt hangs in, bottom line.

OP-EDS

CNN (Scott Jennings): Liberals Don't Really Care About Pruitt's Ethics. What lurks beneath, though, is not a concern for ethics or thrifty travel budgets (they might want to check EPA directors under Obama before they tee off on travel), but rather adherence to liberal environmental policy that borders on religious conviction. Many on the left love government regulations and hate anyone who tears them down, as Pruitt has successfully done at EPA. Having failed to incite a national panic last week over the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the Trump haters have moved on this week to destroying Pruitt. There's a good chance they will fail at this, too. Why? Losing Pruitt would rob the Trump administration of an effective operator who has done more than most to make good on the President's campaign promises. Pruitt has been effective. Unlike David Shulkin, who was recently jettisoned from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pruitt has actually enacted President Trump's agenda. He's a recognized conservative warrior, with the Washington Post reporting that "allies praise Pruitt for returning more power to individual states while scaling back what they see as the previous administration's regulatory excesses." Pruitt might be the most successful Trump cabinet member, delivering win after win to President Trump. ... Pruitt is becoming a martyr. The people at the controls of the liberal outrage machine don't care about rent; they are just hopping mad that he's dismantling Obama's anti-business regulatory regime. As my friend Josh Holmes, a former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, tweeted: "Ironically, the media blood-lusting for Scott Pruitt is insulating him a bit by gradually turning him into a conservative cause. Going to be tougher than they think to run him out over cheap rent." The louder the extreme left screams, the more Trump will consider it music to his ears.

Business Insider (Andy Surabian): Scott Pruitt's real sin is that he's a total killer for Trump's agenda — and it's why the media is trying to destroy him. Pruitt's biggest problem is not his alleged misdeeds. It's his effectiveness and determination at rolling back the job-killing, regulatory bonanza of the Obama years. The liberal media is now intentionally training its ire on Pruitt, because unlike some of the president's former Cabinet officials who have recently been forced out, Pruitt is actually effectively prosecuting the president's "America First" agenda. When it comes to economy-strangling regulations, Pruitt is, as President Donald Trump likes to say, "a total killer." He has no peer in Trump's Cabinet in terms of his ability to cut back red tape. From day one, he began dismantling Barack Obama's legacy with startling effectiveness and cunning. And for this, radical environmentalists and other left-wingers despise him. In Trump's efforts to roll back regulations, "Pruitt has proved to be one of his most effective lieutenants," The New York Times wrote. Pruitt has initiated rollbacks of more than two-dozen unnecessary and economy-strangling environmental regulations. ... But that's not the point of this exercise for the media: To destroy Scott Pruitt. They can't allow him to roll back Obama's entire left-wing legacy at the EPA without putting up a fight. Pruitt, like Trump, Clarence Thomas, and countless others before him, represents an ideological threat to the institutional left and their allies in the mainstream media. To the Fake News Industrial Complex, that justifies trumping up baseless allegations in an attempt to take him out. They're doing everything they can to force the President's hand to get rid of Pruitt, because they know just how effective he is in his role. Pruitt has served his boss well — just a little too well for his liberal critics. And it's for that very reason why he's worth defending and keeping atop the EPA, so he can continue to be a total anti-regulatory killer, for years to come.

The Hill: (Jenny Beth Martin) Scott Pruitt Does His Part to Help Donald Trump Drain the Swamp. “And among members of the White House Cabinet, no agency head has done more to follow the president’s lead in draining the swamp than Scott Pruitt, who leads the Environmental Protection Agency. Make no mistake, that’s why the left and its allies in the media are working overtime to smear him. They know he’s being effective — perhaps the most effective member of Trump’s Cabinet when it comes to actually translating rhetoric into reality — and they know they cannot stop him, so in typical swamp fashion, they are intent on destroying him. ... At the EPA, one of the very worst of the alphabet soup bureaucratic fiefdoms that make up the swamp, Pruitt took charge and immediately focused on returning the agency to its stated goals of improving air quality, shoring up our water infrastructure, and cleaning up contaminated areas. This was a huge change after the Obama administration, which used the EPA to issue volumes of job-killing regulations to mollify environmental extremists. Among its most egregious efforts, it utilized “sue and settle” practices to abuse legal limits on rulemaking and reward ideological allies. In his first year in charge of the EPA, Pruitt finalized more than 20 deregulatory actions, saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion in regulatory costs. He also ended the “sue and settle” practices. The agency is rescinding and replacing the ridiculous and onerous “Waters of the United States” rule, and acting on President Trump’s order to review and overturn the Obama administration’s so-called “Clean Power Plan.” Delivering these results has put a “yuge” target on Pruitt’s back. ... In spite of his coming under attack from the radical left and their allies in the liberal media, Pruitt is making real progress for the American people at an agency that the left believes it alone should run and control. President Trump unified a governing coalition behind the promise of draining the swamp in Washington, and of all his Cabinet members, Scott Pruitt has done the most to help him advance the cause.” – Jenny Beth Martin (Chairman of Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund)

Fox News (Steve Milloy): Trump And The US Need Scott Pruitt To Stay At EPA

“I do,” President Trump said Thursday afternoon when asked by reporters whether he still has confidence in embattled Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt. And well the president should. Pruitt has been the most effective appointee in implementing the Trump agenda. If Pruitt is forced out of his job because of charges he behaved unethically, America will suffer. President Trump was elected as the economy was being choked and jobs were being destroyed by record-breaking, excessive and counterproductive regulations issued by the Obama administration. The regulatory agency leading the charge against a healthy American economy and American job creation was the EPA. Candidate Trump knew this and campaigned on it. Millions of Americans voted for Trump precisely because he came out strongly against regulatory overreach. When elected, the new president wisely tapped then-Oklahoma Attorney General Pruitt to bring EPA back with the bounds of the law and to end the EPA’s gross overregulation. Pruitt knew well EPA’s proclivity toward rogue behavior. He had been involved in some dozen lawsuits against the agency. EPA Administrator Pruitt was specifically directed via presidential executive order to roll back the two most excessive overreaches of the Obama EPA – the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States rule. The Obama war on coal and coal miners, capped off by the Clean Power Plan, has destroyed 94 percent of the market value of the U.S. coal industry and killed thousands of coal miner jobs – all for no environmental or public health gain. The Obama Waters of the United States rule would have given EPA essentially arbitrary control over every square inch of land in the United States. The Obama EPA had set itself up to deem any mud puddle as a “navigable waterway” subject to onerous, development-stopping regulation. Both rules are now going through the lengthy process of review and repeal that Pruitt is overseeing while being savagely attacked by overregulation-loving environmental extremists. Industries long aggrieved by the pre-Trump EPA, especially during the Obama years, now have an EPA administrator eager to listen to their side of the story. Take the example of the glider truck industry, an \$800 million business that rebuilds old truck engines and drive trains for installation in new truck chassis. On its way out the door, the Obama EPA issued rules to that would outright kill the entire glider truck industry by arbitrarily reclassifying these rebuilt trucks as new trucks, thereby ensnaring them in industry-killing new truck emissions standards. The final Pruitt-led reversal of this job-killing Obama rule is expected anytime now. Our economy is once again beginning to roar – so much so that there are labor shortages in many industries. Much of the credit goes to Pruitt for implementing the Trump agenda and otherwise reining in the previously out-of-control EPA. A key reform being implemented by Pruitt that is driving the far-left greens nuts is his effort to stop EPA’s abuse of science. The House of Representatives has repeatedly passed legislation to end some of EPA’s most egregious science hijinks. One bill would end the practice of EPA grantees (who receive hundreds of millions of dollars in grants) serving on EPA science review panels so that they can rubberstamp their own work. Another bill would end the EPA practice of using “secret science” as a basis for regulation. This “secret science” is data that the EPA under past presidents repeatedly refused to provide to Congress and the public for the purposes of independent review. The Obama EPA even defied a congressional subpoena for the data. Both bills have been stuck in the Senate during the past three sessions because of the filibuster rules that let a minority of senators block action. But Scott Pruitt rode to the rescue. Last fall, Pruitt announced that EPA grantees would no longer be allowed to serve on advisory boards. They can pick one or the other – be a grant recipients or an adviser – but the clear conflict in filling both roles will no longer be permitted. Then just last week, Pruitt announced that EPA would no longer rely on “secret science” in issuing regulations. It would, of course, be better if the Senate passed the House bills and sent them to President Trump to sign. But until that can happen, Pruitt has taken the reins and implemented the policies on his own. Bravo. Pruitt has also taken a keen interest in getting so-called toxic waste sites – known as Superfund sites – cleaned up. These cleanups suffered from years of neglect by the Obama administration, which had thrown all its attention and

resources into global warming hysteria and destroying the coal industry. There is much more EPA reform to come from Pruitt, as he is just hitting his stride. Now is not the time to change horses. First, President Trump would have a hard time finding an EPA chief as competent and committed as Pruitt. Next, even if the president did, Senate Democrats would go all out to block confirmation. President Trump should ignore the partisan attacks over trivialities. Let's keep our eyes on the ball of EPA reform and restraint. Our national interest demands it. Just let Pruitt do it.

FAVORABLE BLOG/NEWS STORIES

Washington Examiner: Rush Limbaugh, Ted Cruz back Scott Pruitt, 'Single Biggest Target of Left.' Conservatives, led by top talker Rush Limbaugh and Sen. Ted Cruz, went on offense Thursday for embattled EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, charging that he is being targeted by liberals because he is pulling back the overreach of Obama-era environmental rules. "You know there's an old saying," said Limbaugh, opening his daily three hour show. "When you're taking a lot of flak, you must be over the target. Well I think Scott Pruitt is over the target," he said. "He's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama and he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the left," added Limbaugh. Limbaugh's support was full throated. He said that the liberal "deep state" was leading the attack. "Scott Pruitt is himself unraveling a whole lot of regulations that Obama's EPA implemented," said the top conservative radio host. Other conservatives, notably Tea Party Patriots head Jenny Beth Martin, and several major groups, including Heritage Action, the Club for Growth, and Americans for Prosperity have also backed Pruitt this week, especially after he stalled the Obama plan to dramatically raise car gas mileage.

Red State: Ted Cruz And Rand Paul Give Their Support To EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Yesterday, I posted about the ongoing attempt by the left and by assorted Trump haters, some who are billed as conservatives, to take down EPA administrator Scott Pruitt by a series of contrived "ethics" violations. The strategy is to create a storm of what are basically nothingburger instances and then roll the whole bundle into a "ethics nightmare" on the part of Pruitt. Today two conservative stalwarts entered the scrum on behalf of Pruitt...Brandon Morse

I just hope President Trump and his inner circle have the courage to stand-by Pruitt and help him ride this nonsense out because he has been one of the superstars of the administration.

Breitbart: Limbaugh: Attacks on EPA's Pruitt 'A Bogus Series of Charges.' Thursday on his nationally syndicated radio show, conservative talker Rush Limbaugh questioned the motives of the criticisms aimed at EPA Director Scott Pruitt. Limbaugh explained how Pruitt's alleged indiscretions were nothing out of the ordinary and that this appeared to be motivated by those opposed to his rollback of Obama-era environmental regulations.

Daily Caller: Pruitt Allies Warn Trump – Fire Him and Your Agenda Comes to a Grinding Halt. Allies of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt have a stark

message for President Donald Trump: Remove Pruitt and your agenda will come to a grinding halt, emboldening your opponents. But conservatives are rallying to Pruitt's defense, pointing out that, should he leave EPA, Trump's deregulatory agenda would grind to a halt — playing into the hands of anti-Trumpers. "That is really what would happen if Pruitt was asked to leave," Tom Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. Pyle headed Trump's Energy Department transition team in 2016. "It would take months for the Senate to confirm somebody, and whoever they confirm would be more like Christine Todd Whitman than Pruitt," said Pyle, referring to the former New Jersey governor and EPA chief under President George W. Bush. "It'd be like removing your star wide receiver in the middle of the game. It would slow down the process and make it harder for the administration to achieve their objectives," Pyle said. Pruitt has aggressively rolled back Obama administration EPA regulations, including the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. rule. EPA's year-in-review report claimed up to \$1 billion in regulations were repealed in Pruitt's first year. Conservative pundits also came to Pruitt's defense, pointing out the administrator's success in rolling back regulations and reforming EPA science policies make him a prime target for Democrats.

Daily Caller: Rush Limbaugh Throws Full Support Behind EPA's Pruitt: 'The Single Biggest Target Of The American Left'

Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh went after "Democrats and the media" for trying to get Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt fired. Limbaugh claimed the left was going after Pruitt for "little knickyknack things" to halt the rollback of energy and environment regulations "And one thing that Pruitt's doing that's got them just hog-tied, he's relaxing all of these mileage restrictions that the left has placed on automobiles and engines and so forth," Rush said during his daily radio program on Thursday. "And he's basically just taking a knife and whacking things from the EPA that were implemented during the eight years of Obama." "And he has become, outside of Trump, the single biggest target of the American left," Rush said. Pruitt has come under fire for flying first-class, renting a room in a condo co-owned by an energy lobbyist's wife and circumventing the White House on pay raises for two staffers. The stories have only amplified Democratic and environmentalist calls for his resignation. When asked by reporters if he still had confidence in Pruitt, President Donald Trump said "I do," but reports suggest White House staffers are unhappy with the former Oklahoma attorney general's ethics controversies and decision to speak about the matter on Fox News. Republican lawmakers and conservative allies have come to Pruitt's defense, arguing that Trump's deregulatory agenda would be stopped in its tracks if the administrator were forced to step down. Limbaugh echoed arguments made by conservative pundits that the anger around Pruitt's travel and living arrangements were a distraction from his accomplishing Trump's agenda. "You know, they're going after Pruitt, how come Strzok and Lisa Page haven't been canned?" Rush asked. "How come they are still getting every benefit, every perk and their salaries even though they've been demoted and reassigned, why are they still even working there? See, this is how we lose focus of this stuff." "But this has nothing to do with what Pruitt is doing that has them all ticked off," Rush said. "He's being singled out for doing something that has always been done because that's how they view the best way to go get the guy and discredit him, rather than to try to frighten people about what he's doing with the regulatory side of things," Rush said. "I just hope Scott Pruitt hangs in, bottom line," Rush said.

Breitbart: Rand Paul: 'Scott Pruitt is Likely the Bravest and Most Conservative Member of Trump's Cabinet'

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) backed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt in a tweet on Thursday, calling Pruitt “likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump’s cabinet.” Sen. Paul tweeted on Thursday morning, “Scott Pruitt is likely the bravest and most conservative member of Trump’s cabinet. We need him to help Donald Trump drain the regulatory swamp.” Several leftist reporters, outlets, pundits, and politicians came out recently to attack Pruitt and subsequently call for him to drop out. CNN, the Washington Post, and other outlets have attacked Pruitt for renting out a condominium owned by lobbyists. Pruitt leased a room for roughly \$50 a night, paying a total of \$6,100. Jahan Wilcox, an agency spokesman, retorted, “As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt’s housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations.” Kevin Minoli, the principal deputy general counsel for the EPA, released a memorandum on Thursday detailing how Pruitt’s rental of a condo did not amount to an unethical gift. Minoli charged in a statement on Thursday: Today’s memorandum shares the factual analysis done by the career ethics officials and how that analysis supports the conclusion reached in the March 30th Memorandum that the lease did not constitute a prohibited gift. In reaffirming the original decision, the Memorandum also responds to the misunderstanding or mischaracterization of the March 30 memo by explaining what the conclusion covers and what was beyond its scope. Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign chairman John Podesta called for Pruitt to resign in an op-ed last week in the Washington Post. The Washington Post editorial board called for Pruitt to resign on Monday. The Natural Resources Defense Council, a leftist environmental group, called for Pruitt to step aside last week, arguing that Pruitt a “threat to the environment and our health.” Andy Surabian, a Republican strategist and a former White House special assistant, argued in an op-ed that the reason the media wants Pruitt’s scalp is mostly due to the EPA chief’s leadership in carrying out President Donald Trump’s America First agenda. Surabian charged: When it comes to economy-strangling regulations, Pruitt is, as President Donald Trump likes to say, “a total killer.” He has no peer in Trump’s Cabinet in terms of his ability to cut back red tape. From day one, he began dismantling Barack Obama’s legacy with startling effectiveness and cunning. And for this, radical environmentalists and other left-wingers despise him. Breitbart News’ James Delingpole argued Pruitt continues to suffer the left’s media onslaught because he has served as “the most effective player in Trump’s administration.” Delingpole contends: Pruitt is paying a terrible price for the crime of being the most effective player in Trump’s administration. And, of course, for daring to take on the most powerful vested interest in the swamp – the Green Blob, aka the Climate Industrial Complex. The Green Blob by no means comprises merely Democrats. Delingpole added, “The knives are out for Pruitt because he has done such a devastatingly effective job.” The New York Times even noted that “Pruitt has proved to be one of his most effective lieutenants.”

The Federalist: Media Goes Nuts Over Pruitt’s Travel Costs, Fails To Notice His Predecessors Spent Much More

In a series of tweets, Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberly Strassel explained why the media freakout over Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt’s travel expenses is a bunch of hooey. In the past week, multiple media outlets have published pieces freaking out over Pruitt’s travel expenses after it was discovered the EPA administrator flew first class on the taxpayer’s dime as a security precaution after he received multiple death threats. In a column for The Washington Post, Hillary Clinton’s longtime lackey John Podesta wrote that “Scott Pruitt Needs To Go.” “Pruitt was forced to release documents indicating that he spent more than \$105,000 on first-class flights in his first year at the EPA alone,” Podesta writes. “The Post recently reported that one week’s worth of travel in June 2017 by Pruitt and his staff cost about \$120,000, which the EPA inspector general is investigating.” As The Federalist’s Mollie

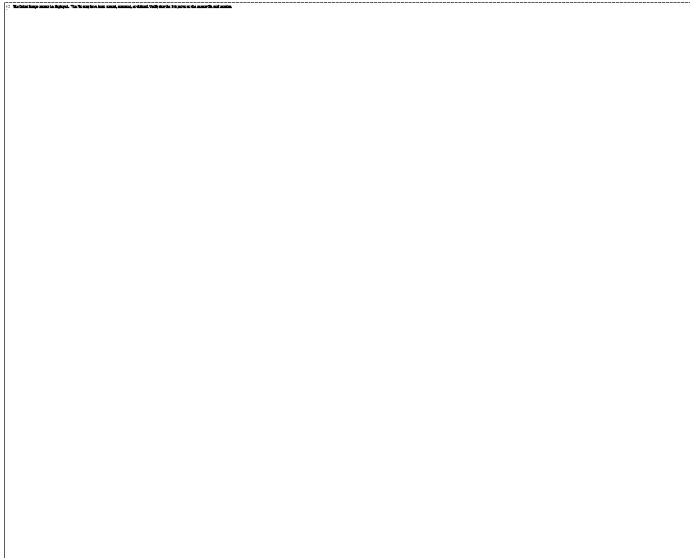
Hemingway explained in a column yesterday, the media-invented scandal surrounding Pruitt's travel expenses is largely manufactured garbage. You can read that in full here. In a series of tweets, Strassel also explained that the travel costs of Pruitt and his staff are not unprecedented and that previous EPA heads actually spent more. She also reiterated the statement from EPA ethics official Kevin Minoli dated March 30, which said Pruitt didn't violate any laws or ethics rules when he stayed at a condo owned by environmental lobbyists.

NOTABLE POSTS OF SUPPORT

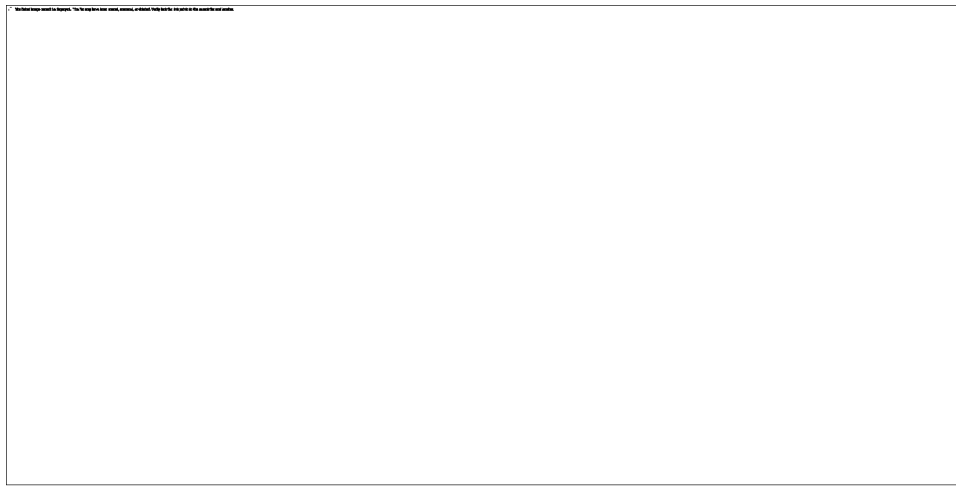
Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)



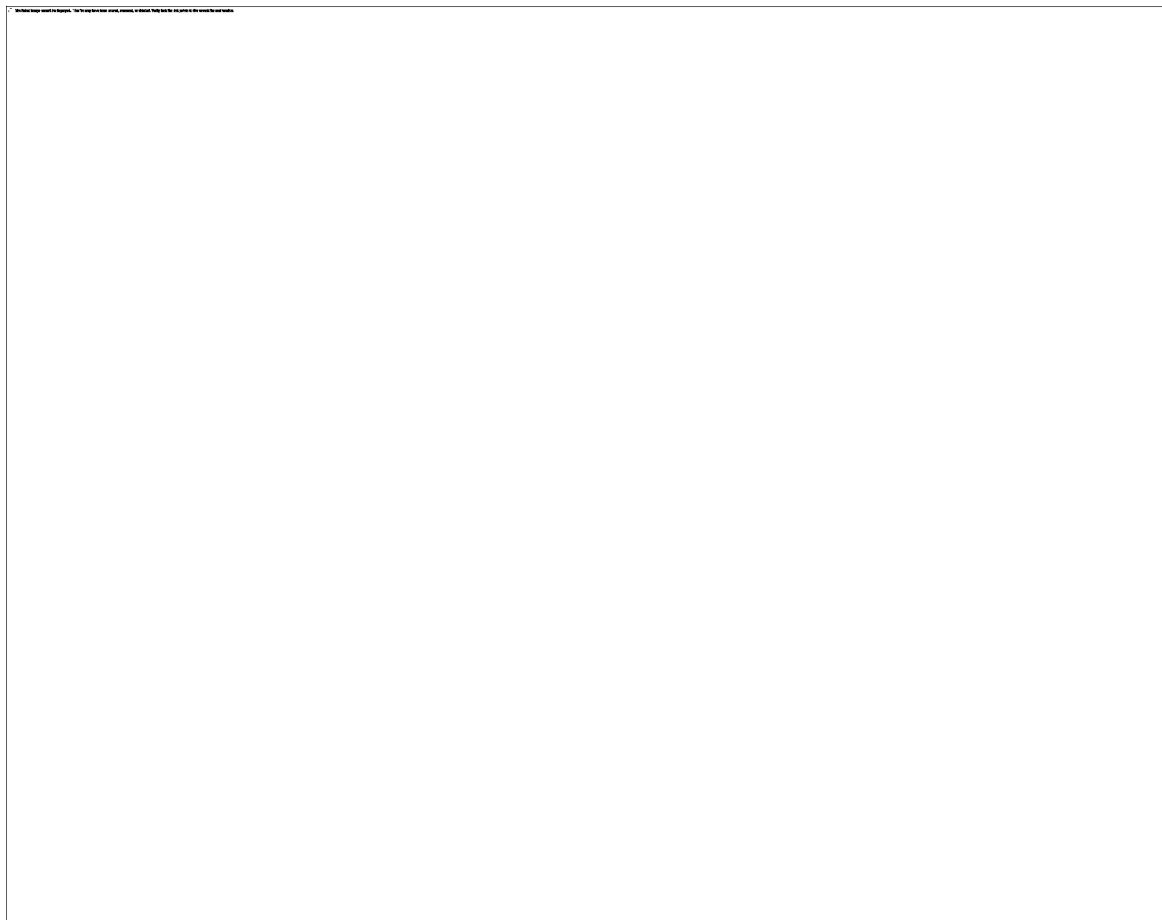
Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)



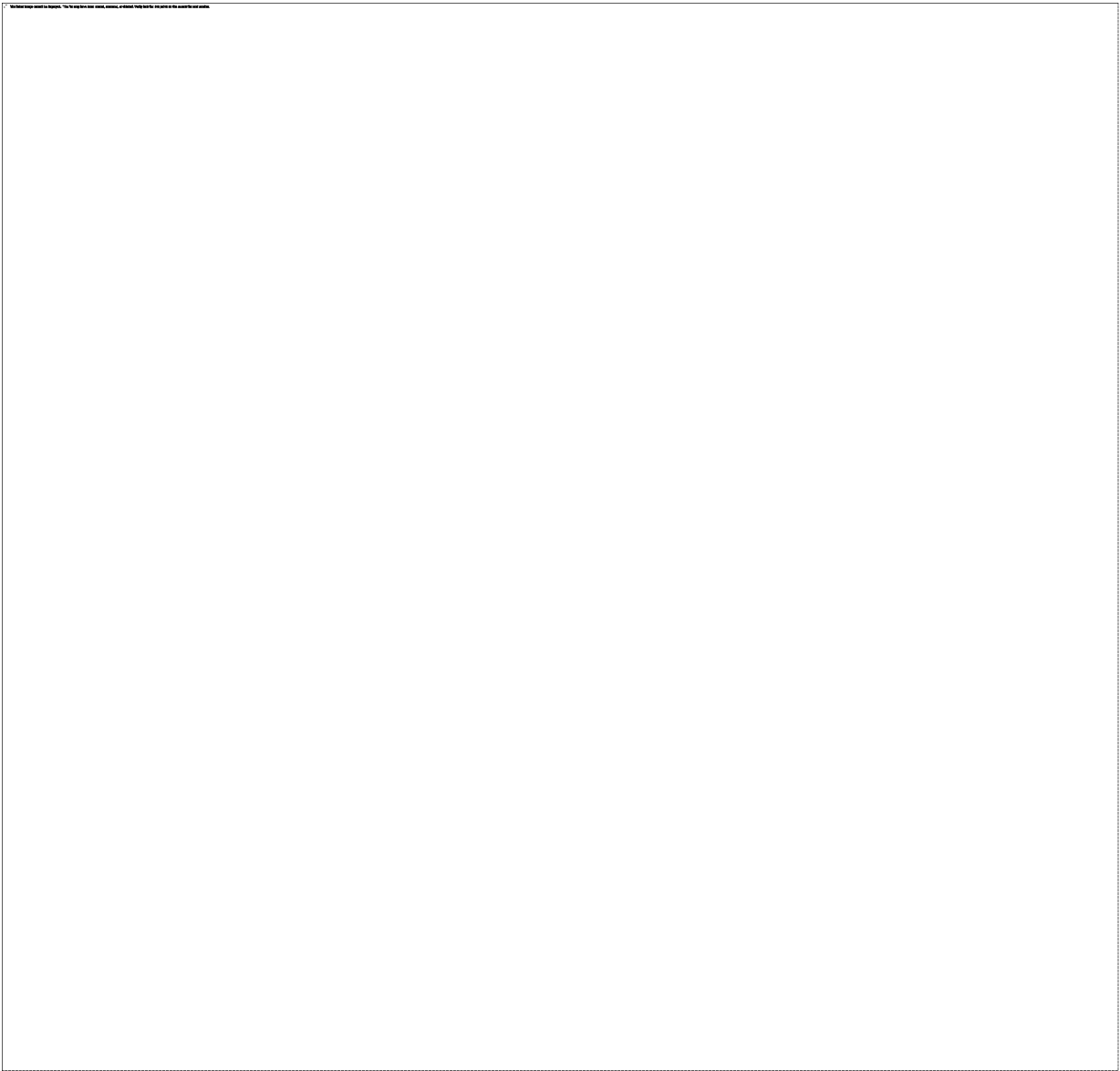
Rick Santorum on CNN New Day: "I'm comfortable with the job he's doing. I think he's doing a great job as EPA Administrator. He's basically stopped all of the tremendous overreach that the Obama administration put in place. .. Scott Pruitt has been under enormous threats. He's been under more threats than any other person in the administration other than the President himself. There are security concerns ... it's a reaction to the fact that this man is doing a job that's controversial but he's doing a great job and getting a lot of flack for it."



Charlie Kirk



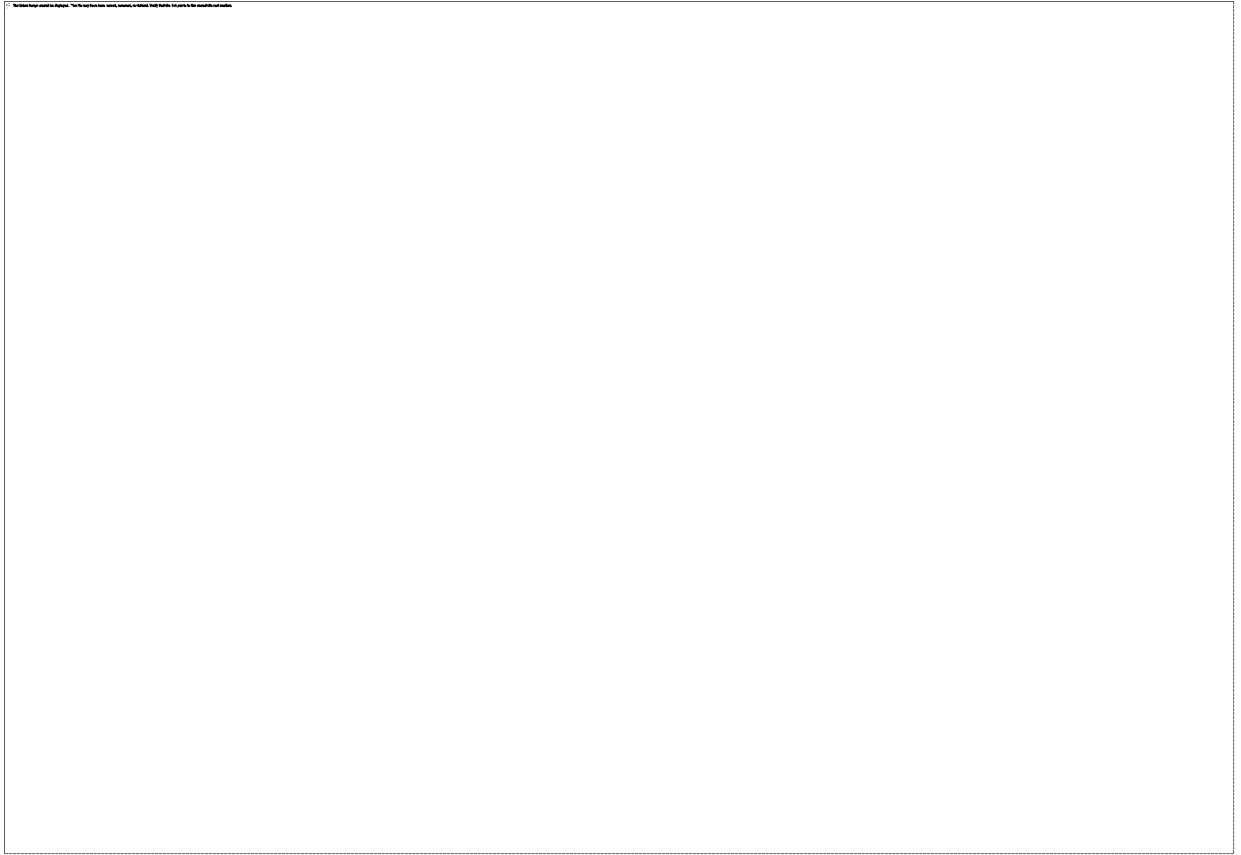
Steve Forbes



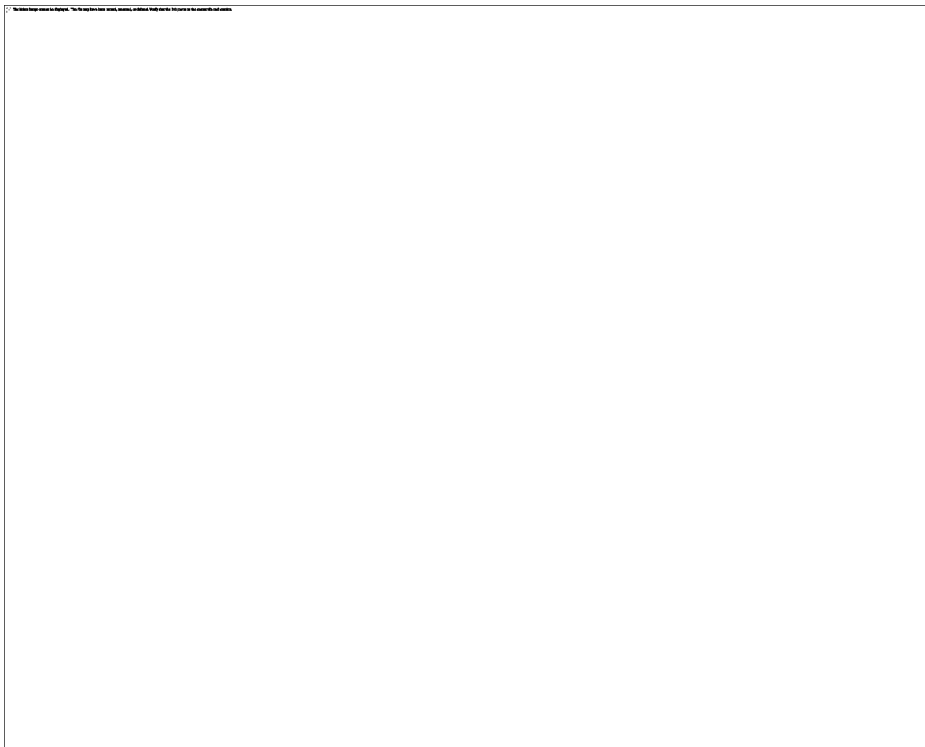
Larry Elder



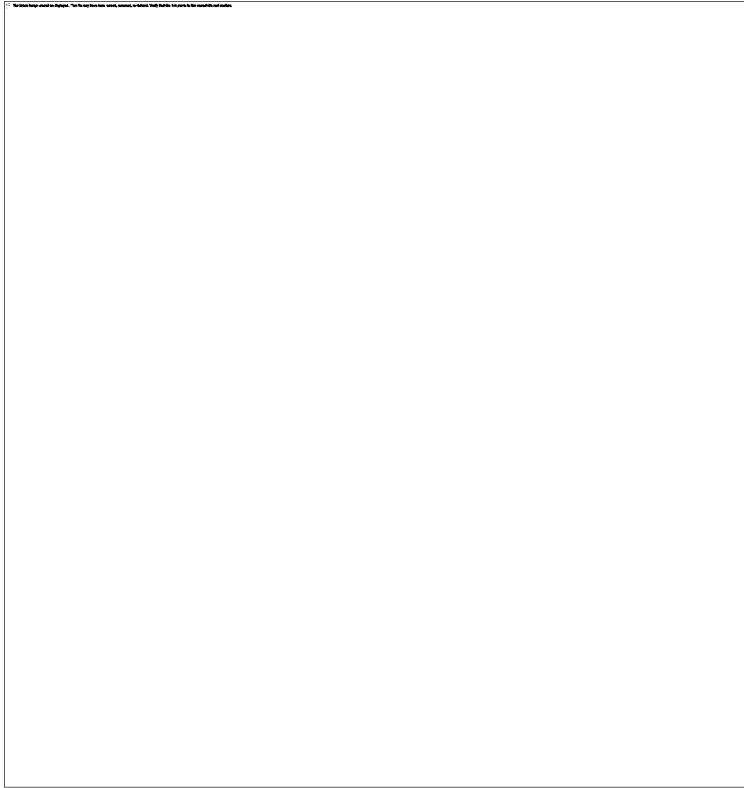
Rob Bluey (Heritage Foundation)



Kathleen Sgamma (President Western Energy Alliance)



Tea Party Patriots



Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/6/2018 12:55:03 AM
To: Puko, Tim [tim.puko@wsj.com]
Subject: Re: Hey

Let me connect with Ryan and figure it out

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 5, 2018, at 7:33 PM, Puko, Tim <tim.puko@wsj.com> wrote:

Let me know ASAP how you want to do this tomorrow. I'm happy to come in, or chat by phone. That'll be with Ryan, you said?

As I mentioned, my issues are with how you framed a lot of these responses. I get all your points about the rationale and your points about how some of the things didn't ultimately happen. But you don't ever deny that they were requested or these conflicts with employees about things that did happen. Here's how I read your response:

1. The ...

- bullet-proof vehicle
- \$100,000-a-month charter aircraft membership
- \$70,000 request for two desks

... were all considered though ultimately were rejected.

2. The security detail ...

- is a 20-person team
- provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator
- had costs high enough that these high-ranking officials in the story questioned it
- didn't include first-class airfare for the administrator initially because Mr. Weese, Mr. Allen, Mr. Chmielewski and Mr. Reeder wouldn't approve it
- and only did get first-class travel approval after Mr. Perrotta replaced Mr. Weese.

3. That those four people and John C. Martin were all reassigned or demoted, or requested new jobs after they raised concerns about the spending and management of the agency. You mentioned that they were disgruntled, but is that supposed to dismiss that timeline of facts? What if they were disgruntled because they objected to this spending and those considerations on good government or ethical grounds, only to be rebuffed or ignored? That seems very plausible.

I'm eager to talk tomorrow, but *I'm hoping you can correct any of this understanding or fill in more details sooner than that.* We're going to consult now about what to do with this. I'll let you know if we make a decision that we can't wait until the morning. Again, eager for any

corrections or further details, and we'd love to hear from the administrator directly on all of this and his future in the administration.

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 6:54 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

“This is a group of disgruntled employees who have either been dismissed or reassigned.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

“EPA Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson, is committed to advancing President Trump’s agenda of regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship and continues to do so under Administrator Pruitt’s leadership.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 6:51 PM
To: 'Puko, Tim' <tim.puko@wsj.com>
Subject: Hey

Here is what we sent the New York Times. You can use anything below as on-the-record.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/05/business/epa-officials-questioned-scott-pruitt.html>

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:02 PM
To: Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lisa –

The below statements can be attributed to Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman.

“We dispute the veracity of the accusations.”

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

“This is not news. EPA’s chief financial officer regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.”

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt’s office suite, including both the administrator’s personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

“The Administrator never considered the proposal.”

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“The suggestion that Administrator Pruitt directs the abuse of emergency lights is ridiculous. The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion. i.e. to avoid possible compromise of the vehicle in a flow of traffic.”

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class

See response below.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

EPA’s assistant inspector general told CNN the following: ‘We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. McCarthy. They run the variety of direct death threats -- ‘I’m going to put a bullet in your brain’ -- to implied threats -- ‘if you don’t classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I’m going to hurt you.’

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

“Administrator Pruitt never asked for a sound proof booth. He asked for a secure phone line. Any discussion about a sound proof booth took place amongst staffers who oversaw the project. They are no longer with the Administrator’s Office.”

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

“The premise in the question that these people were moved or released for the reasons stated are incorrect.”

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Under his leadership, EPA has saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars and rolled back more than 22 regulations. He is advancing the President’s agenda on a daily basis.

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections--Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese--were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin's case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt's office suite, including both the administrator's personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

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++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof both, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy cell

--

Timothy Puko

REPORTER, ENERGY POLICY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

M: +1 Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy ☎: +1 202 862 6631

E: tim.puko@wsj.com

T: @timpuko

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036

 | **DOW JONES**

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/6/2018 12:56:31 PM
To: Tim Puko [tim.puko@wsj.com]
Subject: RE: Hey

I just tried to call you. Heading to a meeting and can try again when I get back.

From: Tim Puko [mailto:tim.puko@wsj.com]
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 8:33 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hey

Cool, thanks. And the rest? We still doing some kind of talk this morning?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2018, at 8:32 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Here's our statement regarding the charter aircraft: **"This is not news. EPA's CFO regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

The desk: **"The Administrator never considered the proposal."** **ON BACKGROUND:** OARM was asked to locate a desk for the Administrator's office since it did not have a desk. In place of a desk, the office had a long table. OARM acquired the desk from the GSA surplus warehouse. The warehouse contained many desks, all were in need of some type of repair. We selected a desk at no cost and proceeded to have the desk repaired/refurbished for use in the Administrator's office or another office should a need arise. We also worked with OGC to ensure that the cost of the refurbishment could be charged to OARM.

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To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
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“The premise in the question that these people were moved or released for the reasons stated are incorrect.”

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Under his leadership, EPA has saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars and rolled back more than 22 regulations. He is advancing the President’s agenda on a daily basis.

From: Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 10:02 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Request for comment please

Hi Jahan and Liz

We are finishing work on a story about the EPA that addresses concerns that were raised by certain HQ staff members related to travel, office spending and issues related to security protocols by the Office of the Administrator.

The story notes how four individuals who raised these objections—Kevin Chmielewski, John E. Reeder and Reginald E. Allen, and Eric Weese—were later transferred to different jobs, or moved on their own to a different job after being told to find a new role, or in Kevin’s case, put on leave.

We know that there are different circumstances involving each of these individuals, three of whom are career and one is political. But we wanted to go in detail here through some of the issues that these staff members raised and then the way their jobs were shifted after their raised these issues.

We welcome your specific responses to these issues. But we need any response you want to offer by 3 p.m. today, Thursday, April 5.

Here are the specific factual assertions I welcome you to address;

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt’s office suite, including both the administrator’s personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio

craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt's desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof booth, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

As an aside, we know of the allegations raised against Mr. Chmielewski related to his security clearance that the IG investigated and found were not substantiated. We also know of complaints that he was hard to reach while he was out of the office doing advance work for the VP.

Finally a few additional questions.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

2) What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

3) Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Thanks very much - I'm on my cell,
Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

--

Timothy Puko
REPORTER, ENERGY POLICY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

M: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy O: +1 202 862 6631
E: tim.puko@wsj.com

T: @timpuko

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036



Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/6/2018 3:33:49 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:02 PM
To: Friedman, Lisa <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment please

Lisa –

The below statements can be attributed to Jahan Wilcox, EPA Spokesman.

“We dispute the veracity of the accusations.”

++ Mr. Chmielewski objected to a proposal to buy a charter aircraft membership for \$100,000-per-month that would have allowed Mr. Pruitt to take an unlimited number of private jet trips for official business

“This is not news. EPA’s chief financial officer regularly receives solicitations for this type of travel, we did our due diligence, found it was not as cost efficient and continued to fly commercial.”

++ One of these staff members objected to a proposal to spend more than \$70,000 to replace the desks in Mr. Pruitt’s office suite, including both the administrator’s personal desk and one at a security station just outside his office. Pasquale Perrotta argued that the desks should be replaced with a bullet-proof model. This purchase did not go ahead. Instead, a brown-maple wood stand-up desk, was purchased from an Ohio craftsman and a separate desk retrieved a federal government warehouse in Virginia and was refurbished at a cost of \$2,075 for Mr. Pruitt

“The Administrator never considered the proposal.”

ON BACKGROUND: OARM was asked to locate a desk for the Administrator’s office since it did not have a desk. In place of a desk, the office had a long table. OARM acquired the desk from the GSA surplus warehouse. The warehouse contained many desks, all were in need of some type of repair. We selected a desk at no cost and proceeded to have the desk repaired/refurbished for use in the Administrator’s office or another office should a need arise. We also worked with OGC to ensure that the cost of the refurbishment could be charged to OARM.

++ The security detail lead questioned Mr. Pruitt’s desire to utilize use of lights and sirens in his motorcade if he was running late, like on his way to a restaurant or airport. In at least one case, Mr. Pruitt wanted these used on his way to Le Diplomate,

“The suggestion that Administrator Pruitt directs the abuse of emergency lights is ridiculous. The security detail for the past 15 years has used them in very limited fashion. i.e. to avoid possible compromise of the vehicle in a flow of traffic.”

++ A member of the security detail also made it be known that he would be reluctant to sign off on requests—which were part of his job to review—for authorization for Mr. Pruitt to fly first class, based on security concerns. Only after Mr. Perrotta took over as security detail lead did Mr. Pruitt begin to regularly fly first class

See response below.

++ Others questioned the need for an approximately 20 person security detail team, that provided 24-7 coverage, instead of 5 person "portal to portal" team with the prior EPA administrator.

EPA's assistant inspector general told CNN the following: 'We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. McCarthy. They run the variety of direct death threats -- 'I'm going to put a bullet in your brain' -- to implied threats -- 'if you don't classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I'm going to hurt you.'

++ At least one senior staffer questioned the need for the expenses associated with sound proof booth, suggesting instead that a broom closet could be used at a total cost of about \$10,000, instead of the final cost for the actual booth of about \$43,000

"Administrator Pruitt never asked for a sound proof booth. He asked for a secure phone line. Any discussion about a sound proof booth took place amongst staffers who oversaw the project. They are no longer with the Administrator's Office."

What message does it send to the American public if Mr. Pruitt switches his security detail chief and two other career officials involved with overseeing expenses and a political appointee who did the same thing, after these individuals raise concerns about spending and security practices? Was this appropriate?

"The premise in the question that these people were moved or released for the reasons stated are incorrect."

Should Mr. Pruitt resign based on the series of questions that have been raised about his performance and if not why not?

Under his leadership, EPA has saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars and rolled back more than 22 regulations. He is advancing the President's agenda on a daily basis.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 4/7/2018 1:28:01 AM
To: Daniel Lippman [dlippman@politico.com]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]; Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]; Block, Molly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60d0c681a16441a0b4fa16aa2dd4b9c5-Block, Moll]; Daniell, Kelsi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd867173479344b3bda202b3004ff830-Daniell, Ke]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]
Subject: Playbook

AP has written this story:

If you include it in Playbook, we hope you will include our brief statement as well: **“According to EPA’s Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family. Americans should all agree that members of the President’s cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

BACKGROUND ...

Patrick Sullivan, EPA's Assistant Inspector General For Investigations said there are a number of threats against EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We have at least four times -- four to five times the number of threats against Mr. Pruitt than we had against Ms. [Gina] McCarthy,” said Patrick Sullivan, EPA's assistant inspector general for investigations, referring to Pruitt's predecessor during the Obama administration. He declined to provide the specific numbers of threats against Pruitt. ‘They run the variety of direct death threats -- ‘I’m going to put a bullet in your brain’ -- to implied threats -- ‘if you don’t classify this particular chemical in this particular way, I’m going to hurt you,’” Sullivan told CNN in an interview. ‘Then there’s implied threats -- like they say in New York, with the mafia: ‘If you come after me and my family, I’ll come after you and your family.’” (CNN, 11/28/17)

According to Patrick Sullivan, threats have nearly doubled against Pruitt. “In an interview with E&E News, Patrick Sullivan, EPA’s assistant IG for investigations, said the watchdog opened roughly 70 threat probes in fiscal 2017, including cases and complaints related to EPA facilities and personnel. That surpassed the total of about 45 such probes into threats against EPA from fiscal 2016. Sullivan also said Pruitt has faced more threats than his immediate predecessors, former administrators Gina McCarthy and Lisa Jackson. ‘He has had significantly more threats directed against him. There’s absolutely no question about it,’ Sullivan said.” (E&E News, 01/11/18)

Threats have been made against Pruitt and his family. “The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency said an increase in his security detail is the result of an escalation in threats to him and his family. ‘The

quantity and the volume -- as well as the type -- of threats are different," Pruitt said in an interview with Bloomberg News. "What's really disappointing to me as it's not just me -- it's family.'" (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

Pruitt said threats the level of protection is decided by the threat. "The level of protection is dictated by the level of threat," Pruitt said, noting security arrangements are decided by others assessing the situation." (Bloomberg, 10/26/17)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said there have been incidents of aggressive behavior against Pruitt. "There were 'incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator.'" (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

EPA's Office EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett said it's their job to ensure they can pull Pruitt away from threats. "The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnett, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

EPA's Protective Service Detail says there is a high level of interest against Pruitt. "Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs." (Bloomberg, 02/15/18)

###

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/21/2018 1:27:50 PM
To: Mangan, Daniel (NBCUniversal) [Daniel.Mangan@nbcuni.com]
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: cnbc.com query - EPA Admin Scott Pruitt travel

Answers in bold.

From: Mangan, Daniel (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Daniel.Mangan@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: cnbc.com query - EPA Admin Scott Pruitt travel

Jahan –

Good morning. I'm doing a story off of Politico's report about Administrator Pruitt's use of first-class flights and the new cost figures for those flights. Please send me any comment you have on that report and its contents.

"We have responded to Chairman Gowdy. The letter explains, EPA's Protective Service Detail identified specific ongoing threats associated with Administrator Pruitt's travel and shifted his class based on certain security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

I'd also like to know if Mr. Pruitt has made any changes in the way he travels as a result of the controversy over the issue of costs.

"We answered this in a podcast with CBS News."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/scott-pruitt-my-very-next-flight-will-be-coach-epa-administrator-the-takeout-interview/>

Thanks –

Dan Mangan

Dan Mangan

Reporter

CNBC.com

201-735-3159 (o)

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy } (m)



Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/21/2018 1:28:45 PM
To: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Subject: RE: Quick follow up, re: travel

Brady just tried to call your cell.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:16 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: Quick follow up, re: travel

Jahan, Liz,

In reading through the travel vouchers last night (and also the earlier batch), there are numerous occasions in which it says the administrator will pay to fly himself home to Tulsa from wherever he is.

That raised a question for us: Does he pay out of pocket to fly first class, given the security issues? If not, has the detail raised any concerns about that? If he is required to pay for first class b/c of security, does EPA supplement that cost in any way?

Thanks very much. And good luck with the snow today.

Brady Dennis
The Washington Post
202-334-7745
brady.dennis@washpost.com
@brady_dennis

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/21/2018 3:05:52 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]; Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]; Leopold, Matt (OGC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4e5cdf09a3924dada6d322c6794cc4fa-Leopold, Ma]
Subject: RE: Quick follow up, re: travel

Statement we crafted with the Administrator's input:

"Administrator Pruitt follows the same security protocol whether he's in his personal or official capacity."

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:21 AM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow up, re: travel

I know the answer.

From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Quick follow up, re: travel

Can you all help here? I don't know the answer

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dennis, Brady" <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>
Date: March 21, 2018 at 9:16:21 AM EDT
To: "wilcox.jahan@epa.gov" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>, "Bowman Liz@epa.gov" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: "Eilperin, Juliet" <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: Quick follow up, re: travel

Jahan, Liz,

In reading through the travel vouchers last night (and also the earlier batch), there are numerous occasions in which it says the administrator will pay to fly himself home to Tulsa from wherever he is.

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b/c of security, does EPA supplement that cost in any way?

Thanks very much. And good luck with the snow today.

Brady Dennis

The Washington Post

202-334-7745

brady.dennis@washpost.com

@brady_dennis

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/21/2018 3:19:15 PM
To: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
CC: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Subject: RE: Quick follow up, re: travel

“Administrator Pruitt follows the same security protocol whether he’s in his personal or official capacity.”

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:16 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Subject: Quick follow up, re: travel

Jahan, Liz,

In reading through the travel vouchers last night (and also the earlier batch), there are numerous occasions in which it says the administrator will pay to fly himself home to Tulsa from wherever he is.

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Thanks very much. And good luck with the snow today.

Brady Dennis
The Washington Post
202-334-7745
brady.dennis@washpost.com
@brady_dennis

Message

From: Bowman, Liz [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C3D4D94D3E4B4B1F80904056703EBC80-BOWMAN, ELI]
Sent: 7/25/2017 5:13:04 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: FW: AP: RECORDS: EPA CHIEF JETS AWAY FOR WEEKENDS ON TAXPAYER'S DIME, 7/25/17

...

From: Sorokin, Nicholas
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 11:19 AM
To: AO OPA OMR CLIPS <AO_OPA_OMR_CLIPS@epa.gov>
Subject: AP: RECORDS: EPA CHIEF JETS AWAY FOR WEEKENDS ON TAXPAYER'S DIME, 7/25/17

Associated Press

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EPA_PRUITT_TRAVEL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT
RECORDS: EPA CHIEF JETS AWAY FOR WEEKENDS ON TAXPAYER'S DIME

By Michael Biesecker, 7/24/17

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Records show the head of the Environmental Protection Agency spent weekends in his home state during his first three months in office, frequently flying to and from Oklahoma at taxpayer's expense.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's expense reports from March, April and May were released following a Freedom of Information request filed by Environmental Integrity Project, a non-profit watchdog group.

The records show Pruitt traveled home at least 10 times, typically leaving Washington on Fridays and returning on Mondays. Pruitt was either in Oklahoma or on trips that included stops there for nearly half the days encompassed in the three-month period, costing more than \$15,000.

EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman did not respond to emails or phone messages from The Associated Press on Monday seeking comment.

Pruitt, a Republican, served as Oklahoma's attorney general prior to his appointment by President Donald Trump to lead EPA. Married with two children, Pruitt owns a home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. There were a couple of occasions where Pruitt traveled on a trip for EPA then paid out-of-pocket to fly to Tulsa before returning to Washington at government expense.

AP reported earlier this year that while Pruitt was in his state job, he was in frequent contact with political donors, corporate executives and industry groups opposed to new environmental regulations enacted under the Obama administration.

He appears to have continued that practice since coming to EPA, including traveling to accept an award from the Oklahoma Well Strippers Association, make a keynote address to a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council and deliver a speech to the National Association of Manufacturers.

EPA records indicate Pruitt also attended "informational meetings" during the trips, which were first reported by The New York Times. Though a trip to Oklahoma might last three or five days, it was not unusual for only one such meeting to be listed during Pruitt's time away from Washington.

An example is Pruitt's reported trip to Tulsa on Friday, May 19, on a flight scheduled to depart Washington at 5:37 p.m. The listed purpose of the trip was an "informational meeting" at the Brainerd Chemical Company in Tulsa. Pruitt's return flight to Washington was scheduled to depart the following Monday morning at 6 a.m. local time.

Records show EPA paid \$1,980 for Pruitt's roundtrip ticket on a commercial airline, well in excess of what an economy class ticket typically costs on that route. Federal regulations allow government travelers to fly business class or first class only when no cheaper options are "reasonably available." Pruitt was also reimbursed \$127 for meals and expenses, according to the records.

Among the questions to which Bowman did not respond was whether EPA staff or members of Pruitt's full-time security detail traveled with him. She also did not answer questions about the official purpose of specific trips or whether Pruitt flew first class.

A call to the family-owned distribution company's chairman, Mat Brainerd, was not immediately returned. He testified before congressional panels in favor of extending the Keystone XL oil pipeline and against part of the Clean Air Act.

In a statement to the Times, Bowman said: "The administrator's travel, whether to Utah, Michigan or Oklahoma, all serves the purpose of hearing from hard-working Americans about how EPA can better serve the American people."

On a different May trip, records show Pruitt flew to Colorado to give a speech to the Heritage Foundation before buying his own ticket to Tulsa for the weekend and then returning to Washington. On that trip, EPA paid \$2,690 in commercial airfare.

The Heritage Foundation, a free-market think tank that receives funding from groups tied to the fossil-fuel industry, paid for Pruitt's hotel room in Colorado Springs, according to his travel form. Though Pruitt's expense report indicates an "ethics form is prepared" to allow the outside group to pick up his hotel tab, a copy of that form was not provided by the EPA.

Eric Schaeffer, executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project, said the records obtained by his group reflect Pruitt's priorities.

"These travel records show that Administrator Pruitt is more focused on cultivating his relationships with industry and conservative political organizations in his home state of Oklahoma than he is on protecting the environment and the public health for the rest of America," said Schaeffer, who served as the head of EPA's office of civil enforcement from 1997 to 2002.

Nicholas Sorokin
Office of Media Relations Intern
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Telephone: (202) 564-5334
sorokin.nicholas@epa.gov

Message

From: Volcovici, Valerie (Reuters) [valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:22:45 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: RE: Question

Yes, I can take a look. Thanks much

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Valdmanis, Richard J. (Reuters) <Richard.Valdmanis@thomsonreuters.com>; Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>; Volcovici, Valerie (Reuters) <valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com>; Shepardson, David (Reuters) <David.Shepardson@thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: Question

Can I send you a letter we sent to these Congressman on this subject? It needs to be without attribution and sourced as "obtained by Reuters." You can obviously quote from the letters.

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Running something by you

Hello again,

Apologies for the multiple requests. This just arrived in my inbox from House Dems.

Were these plans for a Tulsa office true? And if so, were they cancelled (and why?)

Thanks so much,
Valerie

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma

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"Establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa may be personally convenient for you, but it seems ethically questionable, professionally unnecessary, and financially unjustified," the Ranking Members wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

Valerie Volcovici
Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898-8373
Mobile/Signal: +1 Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

1333 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

Message

From: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:22:54 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
CC: Chris White [chris@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Subject: Re: Hey

Sure!

On Wed, Jun 20, 2018 at 9:22 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Can I send you our response to this letter without attribution. You can cite it as obtained by the Daily Caller.

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

--

Michael Bastasch

Daily Caller News Foundation



Message

From: Valdmanis, Richard J. (Reuters) [Richard.Valdmanis@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:49:11 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) [timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com]; Volcovici, Valerie (Reuters) [valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]; Shepardson, David (Reuters) [David.Shepardson@thomsonreuters.com]
Subject: RE: Question

Please do, thanks

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Valdmanis, Richard J. (Reuters) <Richard.Valdmanis@thomsonreuters.com>; Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>; Volcovici, Valerie (Reuters) <valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com>; Shepardson, David (Reuters) <David.Shepardson@thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: Question

Can I send you a letter we sent to these Congressman on this subject? It needs to be without attribution and sourced as "obtained by Reuters." You can obviously quote from the letters.

From: valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:valerie.volcovici@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Running something by you

Hello again,

Apologies for the multiple requests. This just arrived in my inbox from House Dems.

Were these plans for a Tulsa office true? And if so, were they cancelled (and why?)

Thanks so much,
Valerie

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Reuters

Phone: +1 (202) 898 8373

Mobile/Signal: +1 **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

1333 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Twitter: @ValerieVolco

Message

From: Justin Wingerter [JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:45:14 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

Okay, thanks.

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 8:42 AM
To: Justin Wingerter <JWingerter@oklahoman.com>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

Yes. You can quote from the emails and official letter. I do not think I personally need to be quoted in this. Usually use sourcing like obtained by the Oklahoman if necessary.

From: Justin Wingerter [mailto:JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

So, as I understand it, you're providing me the documents (Ryan Jackson's emails) that were provided to Congress in response to this records request?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 8:30 AM
To: Justin Wingerter <JWingerter@oklahoman.com>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

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The information contained in this e-mail and any accompanying attachment(s) is intended only for the use of the intended recipient and may be confidential and/or privileged. If any reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, unauthorized use, disclosure or copying is strictly prohibited, and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by return e-mail, and delete the original message and all copies from your system.

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From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:25:57 PM
To: Tim Puko [tim.puko@wsj.com]
Subject: We got this from House Ds

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:25:04 PM
To: Jennifer A. Dlouhy [jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Subject: Do you/Bloomberg want our response to this?

Without attribution but you can pull language from the letter.

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Sent: 6/20/2018 1:23:09 PM
To: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]; Grandoni, Dino [Dino.Grandoni@washpost.com]
Subject: Did you folks ever inquire about this ...

Can I share our response without attribution and cited as “obtained by the Post.” Of course you can pull any language from the letters.

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From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:22:15 PM
To: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]
Subject: Responding to this

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Sent: 6/20/2018 1:22:05 PM
To: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]; Chris White [chris@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Subject: Hey

Can I send you our response to this letter without attribution. You can cite it as obtained by the Daily Caller.

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Sent: 6/21/2018 2:17:49 PM
To: Grant Hermes [grant.hermes@news9.net]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: FOX: EPA says 'unprecedented' number of death threats against Pruitt

EPA says 'unprecedented' number of death threats against Pruitt

Fox News

April 7, 2018

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/04/07/epa-says-unprecedented-number-death-threats-against-pruitt.html>

EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has faced an "unprecedented" number of death threats, according to an agency spokesman.

His statement follows reports Pruitt has spent millions on security despite no proof his life was in danger.

"According to EPA's Assistant Inspector General, Scott Pruitt has faced an unprecedented amount of death threats against him and his family," agency spokesman Jahan Wilcox said late Friday. "Americans should all agree that members of the president's Cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."

The statement was obtained Saturday by Fox News and included a list of several published reports about such incidents.

President Trump tweeted his support for Pruitt on Saturday evening. "While Security spending was somewhat more than his predecessor, Scott Pruitt has received death threats because of his bold actions at EPA. Record clean Air & Water while saving USA Billions of Dollars. Rent was about market rate, travel expenses OK. Scott is doing a great job!"

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by the Associated Press found no case in which anyone was arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt, the wire service said Friday.

The agency has spent millions of dollars for a 20-member, full-time detail for Pruitt, which is roughly three times the size of his predecessor's part-time security contingent.

New details in Pruitt's expansive spending for security and travel emerged from agency sources and documents reviewed by the wire service. They come as Pruitt fends off allegations of profligate spending and ethical missteps.

Pruitt's domestic and international travel led to rapidly escalating costs, with the security detail racking up so much overtime that many hit annual salary caps of about \$160,000. The demands of providing 24-hour coverage even meant taking some investigators away from field work, such as when Pruitt traveled to California for a family vacation.

Total security costs reportedly are nearly \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses.

Pruitt has said his use of first-class airfare was initiated following unpleasant interactions with other travelers. In one incident, someone yelled a profanity as he walked through the airport.

The EPA administrator also has come under intense scrutiny for big raises for two of closest aides and his rental of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a lobbyist who represents fossil fuel clients.

“This was like an Airbnb situation,” Pruitt told Fox News on Wednesday, in an exclusive interview in which he defended his actions amid allegations of questionable spending. “When I was not there, the landlord, they had access to the entirety of the facility. When I was there, I only had access to a room.”

At least three congressional Republicans and a chorus of Democrats have called for Pruitt's ouster. But Trump is so far standing by him.

A review of Pruitt's ethical conduct by White House officials is underway, adding to probes by congressional oversight committees and the EPA's inspector general.

Pruitt, 49, was closely aligned with the oil and gas industry as Oklahoma's state attorney general before being tapped by Trump, who has praised Pruitt's relentless efforts to scrap, delay or rewrite Obama-era environmental regulations.

Pruitt also has championed budget cuts and staff reductions at the agency so deep that even Republican budget hawks in Congress won't implement them.

EPA's press office has not disclosed the cost of Pruitt's security or the size of his protective detail, saying doing so could imperil his personal safety.

But other sources within EPA and documents released through public information requests help provide a window into the ballooning costs.

Pruitt's predecessor, Gina McCarthy, had a security detail that numbered about a half dozen, less than a third the size of Pruitt's. She flew coach and was not accompanied by security during her off hours.

The EPA spent nearly \$9,000 last year on increased counter-surveillance precautions for Pruitt, including hiring a private contractor to sweep his office for hidden listening devices and installing sophisticated biometric locks for the doors. The payment for the bug sweep went to a vice president at Perrotta's security company.

The EPA official who spoke to AP said Perrotta also arranged the installation of a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth for Pruitt's office.

At least five EPA officials were placed on leave, reassigned or demoted after pushing back against spending requests such as a \$100,000-a-month private jet membership, a bulletproof vehicle and \$70,000 for furniture such as a bulletproof desk for the armed security officer always stationed inside the administrator's office suite.

Those purchases were not approved.

Fox News' Mike Arroyo and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/21/2018 2:09:36 PM
To: Grant Hermes [grant.hermes@news9.net]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: Pruitt's \$43,000 Soundproof Phone Booth Started More Modestly

Grant –

Wanted to make sure you saw this story about the secure phone line. We believe it accurately describes what occurred.

Pruitt's \$43,000 Soundproof Phone Booth Started More Modestly

Bloomberg

April 20, 2018

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-20/pruitt-s-43-000-soundproof-phone-booth-started-more-modestly>

In the beginning, it was supposed to be just a secure telephone line.

But over the course of four months last year, that phone line destined for the office of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt morphed from a no-more-than \$13,500 project into a \$43,000 privacy booth, complete with silenced ventilation and "noise-lock" paneling to keep conversations from being overheard, according to documents obtained by Bloomberg News.

The documents, including purchase requisition forms and email correspondence, add another element to the portrait emerging about Pruitt's spending habits at the agency. They also illustrate some staff unease with the purchase as the scale of the project grew and costs mushroomed.

Just one month into the project, on June 28, 2017, Gayle Jefferson, the director of the EPA's facilities management and services division, confided to colleagues: "The secure room for the administrator appears to be taking on a life of its own."

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said that "Administrator Pruitt simply requested a secure phone line but never asked for a soundproof booth, nor did he have knowledge of its purchase."

Role of Career Staff

"As required by law," Wilcox added, "career EPA employees authorized the purchase and installation."

The documents obtained by Bloomberg News do not capture verbal conversations; they contain electronic communication and may be incomplete. From the documents alone, it is impossible to verify the scope of the initial phone line request or know whether Pruitt and other political appointees ever encouraged a more elaborate project.

Pruitt's soundproof phone booth -- installed a few floors up from another secure telecommunications center in the same Washington building -- is drawing scrutiny from lawmakers, the White House and the EPA's inspector general. Pruitt is already under fire for other spending -- including pricey first-class travel -- and his unorthodox \$50-a-night rental of a bedroom in a Capitol Hill condominium from a lobbyist last year.

Appropriations Law

Earlier this week, the Government Accountability Office concluded the EPA violated an appropriations law by failing to tell Congress about the planned telecommunications booth purchase, since advance notification was required when spending more than \$5,000 to furnish or redecorate an agency head's office.

The GAO also said the EPA ran afoul of the Antideficiency Act, a measure prohibiting federal agencies from spending government funds in advance or in excess of an appropriation. Career officials within the EPA's Office of General Counsel had concluded the phone booth purchase -- like other approved spending on biometric locks -- did not need to be reported to Congress.

The documents obtained by Bloomberg News show the heavy role played by career officials who have purchasing power -- and suggest political appointees without the authority to approve acquisitions were less involved.

A July 6, 2017 calendar invite to discuss the status of a "secure communication room for the administrator" included roughly two dozen career EPA employees and one political appointee: former Deputy Chief of Staff Kevin Chmielewski.

Costs Ballooned

EPA officials seeking bids for the project initially estimated a privacy booth would cost \$13,500 on a July 24, 2017 requisition form. Another \$11,500 was added on Aug. 17, and an additional \$570 was included on Aug. 23 as the staff closed in on a final vendor. That \$25,570, including a \$1,000 after-hours delivery charge, was just for the booth itself; total costs ballooned to \$43,000 after prep work and installation, including leveling a concrete floor to insert the pre-fabricated steel box.

Former Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff Reginald Allen -- who had the top career post in the EPA -- sent booth costs of \$24,570 to Chmielewski on Aug. 23, adding that he was waiting for an estimate for the floor from Jefferson's team. Another email says funding was being handled by Allen's office.

Different Options

At one point, EPA staff considered four different options for the booth purchase, ranging from \$20,560 for a standard delivery that could take three months to their ultimate choice: a rush job in less than half the time with a \$24,570 price tag.

Chmielewski and Allen did not respond to requests seeking comment. Chmielewski told lawmakers he was put on leave after refusing to retroactively approve first-class travel for one of Pruitt's top aides. And Allen has been reassigned.

The staff realized the project would draw attention on Sept. 27, when an acquisition manager warned Allen: "Just wanted to give you a heads up that the booth made it to the news." While "it is a legal purchase," the manager said, it "will be scrutinized."

Allen responded that the requirement to "speed delivery" came from Chmielewski and Pasquale Perrotta, the special agent in charge of Pruitt's protective detail, who has justified other spending in the name of protecting the administrator. "They must address any questions or concerns," Allen said.

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 2:59:00 PM
To: Justin Wingerter [JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

No. We shared it with a few outlets (Oklahoman and Tulsa World first).

From: Justin Wingerter [mailto:JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

Quick question: Is this exclusive to me for now? It sounds like a Tulsa outlet is working on it. Maybe Congress has started leaking or a records request came through.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 20, 2018, at 8:42 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes. You can quote from the emails and official letter. I do not think I personally need to be quoted in this. Usually use sourcing like obtained by the Oklahoman if necessary.

From: Justin Wingerter [mailto:JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

So, as I understand it, you're providing me the documents (Ryan Jackson's emails) that were provided to Congress in response to this records request?

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 8:30 AM
To: Justin Wingerter <JWingerter@oklahoman.com>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office
Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma**

(Washington, DC) – Today, **Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**, **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Congressman Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA)** and **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)** sent two records request letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the General

Services Administration (GSA). The letters request documents and communications regarding EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts to establish a new EPA office in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, despite the fact that EPA already has a regional office in nearby Dallas, Texas. The Administrator requested the new office include a conference room, secure parking space, and a Secure Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Earlier this month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruled that the EPA's construction of a "soundproof privacy booth in the EPA Administrator's office" in Washington, D.C., which reportedly has not been certified as a SCIF, was unlawful because it violated the Antideficiency Act.

It is unclear what progress the EPA and GSA have made in establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The efforts first began in January 2017 when Mr. Ryan Jackson, the then Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, asked the EPA to explore establishing a Tulsa office for Administrator Pruitt, just days before Mr. Jackson was hired by Administrator Pruitt as the EPA's Chief of Staff.

This most recent case of questionable financial management adds to the growing concerns about Administrator Pruitt's misuse of taxpayers' funds and potential ethical lapses in judgement. Aside from the recent GAO findings, the EPA Inspectors General's (IG's) office is currently investigating Administrator Pruitt's frequent travel home to Oklahoma, his foreign trips, and his use of first class travel arrangements and charter aircraft. The IG's office is also investigating his use of an EPA security detail on personal trips. The Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has requested material from Administrator Pruitt's office regarding his arrangement to pay \$50 per night to stay in a Washington, D.C. condominium owned by a lobbyist whose firm had clients with business before the EPA. In addition, Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has launched a review of Scott Pruitt's spending habits as EPA Administrator.

"Establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa may be personally convenient for you, but it seems ethically questionable, professionally unnecessary, and financially unjustified," the Ranking Members wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 2:34:21 PM
To: Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]; Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Subject: RE: Did you folks ever inquire about this ...

Off-the-record (let me double-check) but will probably let Senator Inhofe's comments speak for itself.

From: Dennis, Brady [mailto:Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Cc: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Did you folks ever inquire about this ...

Hey Jahan,

Separately, I might do a short piece on the Inhofe/Pruitt meeting last night, since Inhofe came out to defend him today. Wondering if there's anything y'all want to say about that?

Brady Dennis
The Washington Post
202-334-7745
brady.dennis@washpost.com
[@brady_dennis](#)

On Jun 20, 2018, at 10:13 AM, Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com> wrote:

Got it, and thank you.

On Jun 20, 2018, at 10:12 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

Cool, thank you. Sometimes it's less about getting a story written and more making sure you have the information.

From: Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:10 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Dennis, Brady <Brady.Dennis@washpost.com>; Grandoni, Dino <Dino.Grandoni@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Did you folks ever inquire about this ...

Hey Jahan, we never wrote about this since our understanding from the outset was that it was not accurate. You can definitely share emails so we can take a look, but I'm not sure if we have the bandwidth to write it up, especially since we have it covered it before. Thanks.

On Jun 20, 2018, at 9:23 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Can I share our response without attribution and cited as “obtained by the Post.” Of course you can pull any language from the letters.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma

(Washington, DC) – Today, **Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Congressman Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA) and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)** sent two records request letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the General Services Administration (GSA). The letters request documents and communications regarding EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s efforts to establish a new EPA office in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, despite the fact that EPA already has a regional office in nearby Dallas, Texas. The Administrator requested the new office include a conference room, secure parking space, and a Secure Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Earlier this month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruled that the EPA’s construction of a “soundproof privacy booth in the EPA Administrator’s office” in Washington, D.C., which reportedly has not been certified as a SCIF, was unlawful because it violated the Antideficiency Act.

It is unclear what progress the EPA and GSA have made in establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The efforts first began in January 2017 when Mr. Ryan Jackson, the then Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, asked the EPA to explore establishing a Tulsa office for Administrator Pruitt, just days before Mr. Jackson was hired by Administrator Pruitt as the EPA’s Chief of Staff.

This most recent case of questionable financial management adds to the growing concerns about Administrator Pruitt’s misuse of taxpayers’ funds and potential ethical lapses in judgement. Aside from the recent GAO findings, the EPA Inspectors General’s (IG’s) office is currently investigating Administrator Pruitt’s frequent travel home to Oklahoma, his foreign trips, and his use of first class travel arrangements and charter aircraft. The IG’s office is also investigating his use of an EPA security detail on personal trips. The Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has requested material from Administrator Pruitt’s office regarding his arrangement to pay \$50 per night to stay in a Washington, D.C. condominium owned by a lobbyist whose firm had clients with business before the EPA. In addition, Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has launched a review of Scott Pruitt’s spending habits as EPA Administrator.

“Establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa may be personally convenient for you, but it seems ethically questionable, professionally unnecessary, and financially unjustified,” the Ranking Members wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 6/20/2018 1:42:19 PM
To: Justin Wingerter [JWingerter@oklahoman.com]
CC: Ferguson, Lincoln [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=08cd7f82606244de96b61b96681c46de-Ferguson, L]
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

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Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: We got this on May 1 from House Ds

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To: Justin Wingerter <JWingerter@oklahoman.com>
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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/6/2018 6:58:28 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]; Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
CC: Bowman, Liz [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c3d4d94d3e4b4b1f80904056703ebc80-Bowman, Eli]
Subject: FW: Washington Post: Man hired to sweep Scott Pruitt's office for bugs is in business with a top EPA security official, 3/6/18
Attachments: image2018-03-05-204944.pdf

See attachment. Per our agreement, names or personal information will not be released but I think this should give you content to show that we looked at a few vendors, etc.

Message

From: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]
Sent: 3/20/2018 4:43:31 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]; Miranda Green [mgreen@thehill.com]
CC: Will Sommer [wsommer@thehill.com]; Dustin Weaver [dweaver@thehill.com]; Ian Swanson [iswanson@thehill.com]
Subject: Italy
Attachments: italy.xlsx; EPA-HQ-2017-010139_Combined Vouchers for Release _Redacted.pdf; Redacted EPA travel records for June 5-12.pdf

Here's the breakdown you were looking for.

The first sheet is the totals from each staffer, though the last line is the total for security since that's the only number that's been released.

So to be clear, the >\$84k includes everyone on the trip: Pruitt, the staffers accompanying Pruitt (Dravis, Ferguson, Gunasekara, etc.) and the security detail.

The PDFs are the data that those numbers come from, via FOIA.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer
The Hill
(202) 695-6245
Secure: timothy.cama@protonmail.com

Traveler	Commercial Airfare	Total Expenses
Pruitt, Scott	\$7,003.32	\$8,997.83
Chmielewski, Kevin	\$1,809.63	\$5,445.37
Dravis, Samantha	\$2,330.98	\$5,704.81
Ferguson, Lincoln	\$1,906.12	\$4,461.08
Finman, Hodayah	\$1,553.16	\$3,421.72
Greenwalt, Sarah	\$1,919.96	\$5,173.92
Gunasekara, Amanda	\$2,046.18	\$4,549.78
Hupp, Millan	\$2,144.57	\$5,988.36
Jackson, Ryan	\$2,438.28	\$4,689.55
Nishida, Jane	\$2,014.64	\$5,201.56
Security Detail	\$30,553.88	\$30,553.88
Grand Total	\$55,720.72	\$84,187.86

Message

From: White, Elizabeth [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F8AF641A6306479C9026142EF3B02BD7-WHITE, ELIZ]
Sent: 3/20/2018 5:47:44 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88fd588e97d3405d869bcae98d391984-Wilcox, Jah]
Subject: Fwd: EIP Follow-Up (PSD Vouchers/Flight Time Redactions)
Attachments: EPA PSD Travel Rpt (6-5 to 6-12-17) (Redacted) (vF).pdf; ATT00001.htm; EPA-HQ-2017-010139_Combined Vouchers for Release_Redacted.pdf; ATT00002.htm

This is the security detail travel cost the reporter from the hill was referencing.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sweeney, Edward" <Sweeney.Edward@epa.gov>
To: "White, Elizabeth" <white.elizabeth@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EIP Follow-Up (PSD Vouchers/Flight Time Redactions)

Hi Beth, please see attached.

Edward O. Sweeney, Attorney-Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of General Counsel (MC 2377A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Tel: 202-564-2945

From: White, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Sweeney, Edward <Sweeney.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EIP Follow-Up (PSD Vouchers/Flight Time Redactions)

Ed - can you send me what we released in order to respond to the below? The total security costs for the June 5-12 trip?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2018, at 11:19 AM, Sweeney, Edward <Sweeney.Edward@epa.gov> wrote:

Tom, understand that you're working on pulling a report of PSD travel for 6/5 – 6/12, which should reflect the sum-total of the cost of travel. We can redact as appropriate. Sorry to put a rush on this but the AUSA needs an answer ASAP because he's out of the office this afternoon and we need to file a status report today.

Beth, like I mentioned before. PSD doesn't have any security concerns with flight times that we redacted. Presume it's ok to let the AUSA know that we'll be lifting the redactions. Let me know if you'd like to discuss further.

Thanks both for all your help.

Edward O. Sweeney, Attorney-Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of General Counsel (MC 2377A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Tel: 202-564-2945

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 9/29/2017 5:20:41 PM
To: Krehbiel, Randy (Randall) [Randy.Krehbiel@tulsaworld.com]
Subject: Attached is the document that lists everyone's names
Attachments: image2017-09-27-182513.pdf

Also here is an on-the-record statement: **"Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to get out of the deep state of Washington and into cities, towns and states across the country hearing from Americans that were ignored by the past Administration. When traveling, it is our policy to always fly commercial. There were few instances that dictated otherwise and the decision to fly private or government aircraft was made based on necessity or efficiency."** – EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox

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Sent: 9/28/2017 7:12:13 PM
To: john.roberts@foxnews.com
Subject: North Dakota Stuff Included -- will get one more document for you too
Attachments: image2017-09-27-182513.pdf

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Sent: 9/28/2017 7:13:30 PM
To: Marsh, Rene [Rene.Marsh@cnn.com]
Subject: Background --- EPA Official --- See Attachment.
Attachments: image2017-09-27-182513.pdf

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Sent: 3/20/2018 10:14:59 PM
To: Lachlan Markay [lachlan.markay@thedailybeast.com]; **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/20/2018 10:15:32 PM
To: Jennifer A. Dlouhy [jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net]
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

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Sent: 3/20/2018 10:24:53 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]; Dennis, Brady [Brady.Dennis@washpost.com]
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

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Sent: 3/20/2018 10:49:00 PM
To: Emily Holden [eholden@politico.com]
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

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Sent: 3/20/2018 10:49:51 PM
To: Goldman, Julianna [GoldmanJ@cbsnews.com]
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

Obtained by CBS News.

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Sent: 3/21/2018 5:05:03 PM
To: Michael Bastasch [mike@dailycallernewsfoundation.org]
Subject: Here you go
Attachments: EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part1.pdf; EPA Travel Voucher Production March 20 2018_Part2.pdf; Chairman Gowdy 3-20-18 (Air Travel).pdf

Please cite as documents obtained by the Daily Caller.

On-the-record statement: **“We have responded to Chairman Gowdy. The letter explains, EPA’s Protective Service Detail identified specific ongoing threats associated with Administrator Pruitt’s travel and shifted his class based on certain security protocols that require him to be near the front of the plane.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox